MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

28 APRIL 1981

Lebanon

Israeli Raids--IDF radio reported that Israeli planes raided Palestinian military targets in the Sidon, Tyre and An-Nabatiyah areas on 27 April. Beirut radio claimed that the Israeli planes attacked populated areas, and the clandestine Voice of Palestine radio said 55 civilians were killed or wounded in the raids. Voice of Palestine also stated that the ground defenses of the joint forces shot down an Israeli plane, but Jerusalem radio said all the planes returned safely to base.

Southern Clashes--Maj Sa'd Haddad's Voice of Hope radio reported artillery exchanges in the south between Palestinian forces and Christian militia. Voice of Palestine said Palestinian rockets hit Israeli settlements. Jerusalem radio confirmed that Katyusha rockets feel in the Galilee panhandle on 27 and 28 April, saying they caused no casualties.

Beirut, Zahlah--Heavy artillery exchanges between eastern and western Beirut erupted during the afternoon, Beirut radio reported, but died down after a new cease-fire agreement was reached. Voice of Palestine accused the Phalangists of shelling western Beirut in conjunction with the Israeli raids in the south. Voice of Lebanon radio reported continued fighting in the mountains northwest of Zahlah, with battles around the peaks of the French redoubt. According to Voice of Palestine, leftist nationalist movement forces have gained control of the most strategic position of the French redoubt on Mount Sannin while Arab Deterrent Forces control the road leading to the mountain peak. Voice of Lebanon reported intensive Syrian shelling of the center of Zahlah on 28 April.

Jordan

An Amman radio commentator said Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad resorted to an abusive campaign against Jordan in his 26 April speech to a Damascus peasants congress in order to divert attention from the Syrian regime's "new massacre" of the citizens of Hamah. The radio said large numbers of Hamah's inhabitants have been executed or arrested by Syrian special squads. Amman radio also reported that AD-DUSTUR also criticized Al-Asad's speech, contrasting the security and stability of life in Jordan with the torture, terrorism and killing of the Syrian regime.

Libya-USSR

Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi began talks in Moscow with Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev, Moscow radio reported, during which they discussed topical international problems. The radio said they agreed that the current tension in the Middle East is caused by Israeli aggression and U.S. expansionism, and they expressed the conviction that the repulsion of imperialism is an urgent task. According to Tripoli radio, at a Moscow dinner held in his honor Al-Qadhdhafi praised the Soviet Union's attempts to ease tension in international relations. He stressed that the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front depends on its friends in the Soviet Union in confronting the "aggression" against the Arab world, and he added that the Soviet Union must give military and political support to the Arabs and make greater efforts on behalf of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front. While expressing support for Soviet proposals concerning international peace, Al-Qadhdhafi also said the Soviet proposal for a conference on the Palestinian issue needs to be clarified and discussions should be held on ensuring the independence and neutrality of Afghanistan and on halting "all forms" of outside interference there. Stressing Libya's neutrality, Al-Qadhdhafi voiced the hope that Libya and the Soviet Union will develop their relations.

Saudi Arabia

The West German news agency DPA reported that FRG Chancellor Helmut Schmidt arrived in Riyadh for a 2-day visit. Riyadh radio later said he and his delegation began talks with King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and other Saudi leaders. Citing the FRG Government spokesman, DPA reported that the question of possible German arms sales to Saudi Arabia was not mentioned during the talks.

Iran

Tehran Demonstration--Supporters of the Mojahedin-e Khalq staged an unauthorized march in Tehran, Tehran radio reported, shouting slogans against the government and insulting officials. They were confronted by "committed Muslim people" who could not tolerate their insults, and when clashes seemed inevitable, revolution guards and security police began to fire into the air to disperse the crowd. Another Tehran radio report said that when asked to disperse, the marchers threw stones and bricks at revolution guards. The report added that tear gas was used in breaking up the crowd. According to AFP, 2 people were killed during the demonstration, in which 100,000 protested the "murder" of Mohajedin-e Khalq supporters.

Mahdavi-Kani on Disturbances--Questioned about the large number of recent clashes throughout Iran, Interior Minister Mohammad Reza Mahdavi-Kani told a Tehran radio correspondent that the groups responsible for the clashes are inciting them in an attempt to weaken the government. The government is in a difficult position, he added, because it does not want to treat citizens as they were treated by the former regime, but it cannot remain indifferent and let people fight each other in the name of liberty. There are legal ways to express opposition, he said, but those who commit offenses must be prosecuted. He concluded with a plea that those who stage demonstrations "at least get permission" so that those responsible will be identified and with a call to all citizens to put an end to confrontations "for the time being."

Leadership Dispute--In a letter to President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, broadcast by Tehran radio, the three-man committee investigating differences among Iran's leaders asked Bani-Sadr why he has not yet signed and forwarded for implementation the Majlis resolution approving Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i's appointment of supervisors for those ministries that do not yet have ministers. The radio also reported that the committee has asked Raja'i to explain why he had appointed deputy ministers to the Foreign Ministry before the Majlis passed and the president approved a resolution giving him supervisory powers over the Foreign Ministry. In his reply to the commission, an excerpt of which was broadcast by the radio, Bani-Sadr said that he is not obliged to sign and foward Majlis resolutions within a prescribed period of time. He added that he has not forwarded the resolution because he does not agree with or approve of it.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

An Iraqi General Command communique, carried by INA, reported that fierce fighting continued in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region. It claimed that Iraqi aircraft bombed targets in that region as well as Nowsud and Ahvaz, returning safely to base. According to Tehran radio, exchanges of fire also continued in the Qasr-e Shirin and Gilan-e Gharb regions. It claimed that Iranian troops completely control the Bazi Deraz heights after 6 days of fighting in which 33 Iraqi tanks were destroyed. A Joint Staff communique, broadcast by Tehran radio, confirmed Iraqi air raids on Ahvaz and added that Iraqi planes bombed Gilan-e Gharb, abadan and a village near Marivan. One Iraqi MiG was shot down over Gilan-e Gharb, it said.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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PLO SPOKESMAN VIEWS LEBANON, PHALANGISTS

LD241409 Jidda AL-JAZIRAH in Arabic 21 Apr 81 p 17

[Interview given to Mustafa Hammud by PLO Foreign Information Department chief and PLO official spokesman Hammud al-Labadi, in Beirut on 10 April]

[Excerpts] Beirut--[Question] In its resolutions the At-Ta'if summit emphasized that a jihad is the only way to regain Jerusalem. Has the practical application of this step begun?

[Answer] We Palestinians undoubtedly support every step that leads to the liberation of our land. All the peoples of the world share our stand. However, we in the Arab and Islamic worlds have our own special circumstances. The Arab and Islamic peoples belong to the so-called Third World and our military and technological capabilities are still backward. Despite the fact that we have raw materials and petroleum, we still lack the necessary technology that would enable us to utilize our weapons in taking the decision--the decision to make war. At-Ta'if summit declared that a jihad was the only way to regain Jerusalem and the usurped homeland. Putting this decision into practice is no easy matter. "Make ready for them whatever force and strings of horses you can, to terrify thereby the enemy of God and your enemy and others besides them that you know not; God knows them." [Koranic verse] It is on this basis that the slogan of the jihad was raised by the officials in the Saudi Arabian Kingdom. Naturally, a jihad cannot be achieved without moral, political, economic, military and other preparations. I believe that we, as an Islamic and Arab nation, have begun the first step but we still have a long way to go. God willing, our capabilities will improve in the future and we will be able to take the decision.

[Question] While you were busy mediating between Iraq and Iran, violent battles erupted in the Lebanese arena. What is your real attitude toward these battles?

[Answer] In fact, we are against the Phalangists--or rather, against the Phalangist-Israeli collusion. We do not oppose the Phalangists because they are Phalangists or because they are Christians, as is claimed by the party which is trying to monopolize Christian representation in Lebanon. Everybody knows that we, as a Palestinian revolution, are for stability and peace in Lebanon while our primary concern is to return to our country and to liberate our homeland. We believe that the Arab Deterrent Forces are carrying out their duty fully. Naturally, we support what these forces are doing and find many justifications for what they have done in Zahlah. Syria cannot tolerate Israeli-Phalangist collusion in its rear line, particularly in Zahlah, not only for security reasons but also because this collusion has a vested interest in continuing the Arabization of the war. Israel always seeks the Arabization of the war so that Arabs will fight each other. Israel likes the Christians and the Muslims to fight each other and the Shi'ite Muslims to fight the Sunni Muslims and it likes sectarian wars and wars between communities to take place in every part of the Arab and Islamic world. Israel desires this in the hope of imposing the well-known imperialist settlement. The Lebanese war, naturally, falls within this framework.

Therefore, our stand on the current conflict in the Lebanese arena is well known and clear: We hope that it will end as soon as possible; we hope that a lasting agreement will be reached. At the same time we support the action which the Syrian forces are now taking against the isolationist Phalangist-Israeli forces. It must be clearly pointed out that Israeli military experts are present in the ranks of the Phalangists. This is confirmed by Western circles and not only by Palestinian sources. Information received from foreign sources confirms that General Rafael Eytan visited Juniyah 2 days before the battles erupted and that Israeli experts have been walking in the streets of Juniyah. For this reason I cannot but support the Arab Deterrent Forces in this conflict.

[Question] The battles in Lebanon intensified when the Lebanese Government decided in earnest to send the army to the south. Why do you not help the government in achieving this step?

[Answer] We have been constantly supporting the deployment of the army in the south. This is an old stance which the Palestinian revolution has declared and adhered to. The only side which opposes the deployment of the army in the south is Israel and its agent Sa'd Haddad. The current problem is not that of deploying the army in the south but it is basically the problem of Zahlah which has nothing to do with the South. Zahlah had become a Phalangist military fortress and the Phalangists began shelling the Palesinian camps in Beirut. In short, we have never been an obstacle to the deployment of the army in the southern area.

[Question] But the Lebanese officials are saying that the army supply routes to the south are insecure, is that true?

[Answer] Let me tell you emphatically that this allegation is false. It is being reiterated by some colluding parties but it is absolutely untrue.

[Question] Do I understand from this that you agree to the deployment of the army in all the southern area or only in the border strip?

[Answer] The army is welcome as a combat comrade to face the Israeli onslaughts. The land is Lebanese and therefore the Lebanese Army's primary duty is to defend its territory and not leave us alone in the arena to face Israel. It must stand beside us in the same trench to parry the blows of the common enemy.

[Question] Are you aware that when the army goes to the south, it will try to apply the armistice agreement?

[Answer] When it finds itself on the receiving end of Israel strikes it will inevitably adopt a different stand.

[Question] Are you still observing the decision to stage military operations from Lebanese territory?

[Answer] This is an old pledge to which we are still committed.

[Question] Certain circles have reported that there are differences between you and Syria which have not yet come into the open. How true are these rumors?

[Question] These rumors are completely untrue because our relations with Syria are excellent. The best proof of this is that the Palestinian National Council will be convening in the Syrian capital and that we have forces in Syrian territories. Moreover, we have historical and strategic relations with Syria. Therefore, I emphasize that such allegations are unfounded.

[Question] What is your relationship with the Palestinian Liberation Army which is present on the contact lines in Beirut?

[Answer] The Palestinian Liberation Army which is stationed on the contact lines in Beirut is one of the Arab Deterrent Forces' detachments and receives orders from the command of these forces only.

[Question] Do you see any connection between Haig's visit to the area and the eruption of the war in Lebanon?

[Answer] In fact, if we are to be objective, it is difficult to say so. Certain parties link the recent events to Haig's visit while others deny this. However, whether it was to do with Haig or not is unimportant. This is not an issue.

The basic issue is: What is the American stance not only on the conflict in Lebanon which is a ramification of the Middle East issue but also on the basic issue--the issue of the Palestinian people--and the PLO? This is the stance which America is requested to make clear. Naturally, there is contention between us and America which continues to adopt a hostile attitude toward the aspirations of the Palestinian people and the Arab nation. This is the basis of the conflict and we must make the Americans understand that their interests will be in danger if the Palestinian issue remains unresolved.

PLO SEEKS 'IMMEDIATE' SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING

JN271722 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1645 GMT 27 Apr 81

[Excerpt] The radio correspondent has learned that the PLO has asked, via its UN representative, for an immediate session of the UN Security Council to discuss the bestial attacks launched yesterday and today by the U.S.-made Zionist planes on the Palestinian camps and the Lebanese towns and villages in southern Lebanon.

Also, the PLO representative at UN has conveyed an official memo to UN Secretary General Dr Waldheim calling on the United Nations and the world's countries to shoulder their responsibilities concerning the annihilative attacks launched by the U.S.-made Zionist planes against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples in the south. The PLO memo said that the shelling of civilians and the inflicting of grave losses in life are the primary objectives of the Israeli raids, which are in harmony with the Zionist war of annihilation that enjoys the implicit approval of the U.S. administration and its blessing.

PFLP-GENERAL COMMAND RALLY MARKS 16TH ANNIVERSARY

JN250742 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 25 Apr 81

[Excerpts] The PFLP-General Command held a speech rally at the Palestinian Arab Club in the Al-Yarmuk refugee camp last night on the occasion of its 16th anniversary.

The speech rally was attended by Khalid al-Fahum, Palestine National Council [PNC] speaker; Comrade 'Isam al-Qadi, Ba'th Party National Command member and As-Sa'iqah secretary general; Comrade members of the regional Palestine command; Progressive National Front members; Staff Brig Gen Muhammad Tariq al-Khadra, Palestine Liberation Army chief of staff; PLO Executive Committee members; the secretary and members of the Ba'th Party's Palestine branch; representatives of the Palestinian resistance leaders and a large crowd.

PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum delivered a speech on behalf of the PLO in which he greeted the General Command of the Palestinian factions, its cadres and Political Bureau. Al-Fahum denounced the stands of the United States and of the agent reactionary regimes in seeking to liquidate our Palestinian people's unity and struggle. He also spoke about the recent PNC session and said: I sincerely tell you that this session was more successful than all previous sessions because it was agreed that the only option is the Palestinian option, the option of the Palestinian gun. He also praised steadfast Syria under the leadership of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and its secretary general, Comrade-Struggler Hafiz al-Asad, for its firm stand on the Palestinian cause and praised the socialist countries headed by the Soviet Union for their support to all the world's liberation movements and to the Palestinian revolution.

PLFP-Central Command Secretary General Ahmad Jibril also delivered a speech in which he praised the struggle of the brother Palestinians inside and outside the occupied territories. He referred to the heroic acts and sacrifices of the Palestinian people for regaining their land and usurped rights. He denounced the criminal shelling and destruction carried out by Israel in southern Lebanon and in the occupied territories stressing that the Palestinian people will lie in wait for the reactionary Arab leaders, who have the same objectives as the Israeli leaders. The time will come when they will be wiped out.

VOP CONDEMNS BEGIN STATEMENTS ON LEBANON

NC241340 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1135 GMT 24 Apr 81

[Unattributed news analysis]

[Text] With the strength of a mighty one, Menahem Begin turned into a peace dove in southern Lebanon. He has ordered his stooge and tool, Sa'd Haddad, to stop shelling the UN emergency forces and to avoid the shelling of civilians. Moreover, Begin has expressed the hope that the situation in the south would calm down, that Lebanon soon enjoy peace and that it would progress within the framework of its freedom, sovereignty and respect for its territorial safety. Thus, the one who kindles fires has become a fire fighter; the one who kills civilians has become eager to safeguard their lives; and the one who violates Lebanon's freedom, sovereignty and independence has become a loud-voiced advocate of this freedom, sovereignty and independence. What is this? Is this guidance which suddenly fell from heaven to turn over the balances and criteria in a flash? Or is there a secret in the matter or a song in the head of Begin which he wants to sing in the coming period.

In light of our experience with the Zionist leadership and its tactical political method of action, we believe that this sudden exaggerated meekness is no more than a tactical bow in the face of a storm which blew in the face of agent Haddad and his total connection with the Zionist leadership. The world no longer admits a difference, not even a slight one, between Sa'd Haddad and the Zionist generals. It also does not admit the innovation that it is not Israel that shells the UN forces and southern cities and villages. Therefore, the massacres which took place in Sidon and elsewhere are Israeli massacres, as the world has come to realize.

To soothe the reaction to these massacres, Begin assumed the personality of the meek dove to hit two birds with one stone: first, to establish that the past crimes against the UN forces and the civilians in the south were committed by Sa'd Haddad and that Israel had nothing to do with them and, second, to impress the world public opinion that Israel is not a factor in the explosions in the south but a factor for pacification and to allow the local conflict inside Lebanon to interact with the allegation that Israel is shirking aid to its tools because this declared aid was in the past a factor for local and Arab polarization against the isolationists and their disgraceful dealings with Israel.

Begin's meek statements, therefore, are no more than a new tactic that will not affect the fact that Israel is the main cause of the explosion in the south and all Lebanon. It will not affect the fact that Sa'd Haddad is one of the Israeli guns and no more and that this gun opened fire when the Israelis felt the need for it. Nobody can believe the new Israeli allegations which Begin uttered following his meeting with traitor Haddad yesterday, particularly when Begin tried to depict himself as a mediator between Haddad and the UN forces at a time when every soldier in these forces knows that Begin is the head of the snake. There is no need for the head of the snake to mediate between its tail and its prey.

ARAB ARMY CHIEFS OF STAFF TO MEET IN TUNIS

LD271328 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1030 GMT 27 Apr 81

[Text] Tunis, 27 Apr (TAP)--The chiefs of staffs of the Arab armies will hold a meeting at the Arab League General Secretariat building in Tunis tomorrow, Tuesday, to discuss important common military issues. This is their first meeting since the transfer of the league headquarters to Tunis.

[Paris AFP in English at 1246 GMT on 26 April adds that the meeting will "continue to May 2."]

KUWAIT

'SOURCES' SEE CHANCE OF IMPROVED TIES WITH USSR

LD271242 Kuwait KUNA in English 1002 GMT 27 Apr 81

[Text] Moscow, 27 Apr (KUNA)--Diplomatic sources here believe that last week's visit to Moscow by Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah Ahmad has marked the beginning of a new era in the relations between the Arabian Gulf countries and the Soviet Union.

The sources said that the Gulf countries wanted to keep the bridge open with Moscow instead of the one-way track between the region and the Western bloc and all that so as to preserve balances in the Gulf relations with the superpowers. The sources added that the Soviet approach to the Middle East crisis and the Arab causes was very much appreciated by the Gulf leaders contrary to the Western stands, demonstrated by the U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig and the British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher during their visit to the region.

An Arab diplomat, well-established in understanding world political affairs, said that statements by Haig and Thatcher were actually irritating because they concentrated on the alleged Soviet threat to the region and ignored the Palestine question which is the main headache for the Arabs. He added that (?unless) the West [word indistinct] to the Arab expectations it will only reap [words indistinct] East.

The diplomat believes that Shaykh Sahab al-Ahmad's (?visitwas well-timed) especially at this stage which is [passage indistinct] the Soviets held on the proposed Gulf Cooperation Council.

The chief Kuwaiti diplomat has assured the Soviet Union that it could continue to be a friend of the Arabs who are prepared now to respond favourably to any positive Soviet steps for the good of the region and world peace.

As far as the Afghanistan question is concerned, the Arab diplomat said that Kuwait has never taken any sentimental or sensational stand on this problem as could be seen from statements by Shaykh Sabah during the extraordinary session of the Islamic foreign ministers in Islamabad last January [words indistinct] did not favour an emotional action in tackling Soviet intervention that Muslim country.

The Kuwait stand has been most sound because Kuwait does not want the Islamic countries to be distracted away by the U.S.-sponsored anti-Soviet propaganda. The diplomat pointed out this week's decision by the Reagan administration to lift an embargo on grain exports to the Soviet Union.

Those who expected the visit to bring about an immediate change in the Soviet stand on Afghanistan should know that Shaykh Sabah does not have a magic wand to conjure this change, the diplomat said. He added, a big country like the Soviet Union, which leads one of the two world blocs, has its own accurate calculations for changing stands which are based first and foremost on national interests and strategic plans.

COMMENTARY VIEWS FOREIGN MINISTER'S USSR VISIT

LD271154 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 27 Apr 81

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Every country in the world has its own political philosophy which guides its actions internally and governs its relations nationally and internationally. Similarly, Kuwait too has its own philosophy, which can be breifly summarized in one phrase: the pursuit of a peace which bolsters national sovereignty and consolidates its national identity.

All the activities which have been carried out and which continue to be carried out by Deputy Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and acting Information Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah are geared to the pursuit of such a peace.

So that there will be no ambiguity about the meaning of the peace in which the State of Kuwait believes and which it seeks to uphold, the Government of Kuwait has made it a point, on every occasion and at every meeting, to declare that the peace which it aims at is that which enables every people in every country to exercise their right to self-determination, to bolster their national sovereignty, to administer their economic potential and natural wealth, to establish equal relations in the international field, to preserve their cultural heritage and to fully develop their literary and material capabilities. This concept of peace is the pivot of all Kuwaiti activities regionally, nationally and internationally. It is the concept of peace which governed the official visit of Shaykh as-Sabah to the USSR from 23 through 25 April in response to the invitation he received from the USSR Government.

The visit culminated in the triumph of the idea of peace. As can readily be seen from the joint communique issued at the end of the talks between the USSR and Kuwait, the talks revealed complete understanding on the urgent issues facing the officials in both countries, particularly during their review of the international situation when the Kuwaiti delegation was acquainted with the program of measures for resolving international tensions which was presented by Chairman Leonid Brezhnev at the 26th CPSU Congress.

The two sides are convinced that the safeguarding of peace and the consolidation of international peace are among the most important issues facing mankind. Thus, it was not strange to see the two countries expressing their profound concern over the growing tension in international relations and supporting all efforts exerted to consolidate international security and remove all causes of tension in the world.

Briefly, the talks between Kuwait and the USSR consolidated the following facts: 1) their satisfaction at the development of relations between them based on the principles of equality and respect for each other's national sovereignty; 2) their awareness of the importance of cooperation among countries with different social systems; and 3) their conviction, in light of the cooperation they have succeeded in establishing between themselves, of the possible expansion of the volume of trade exchange between them and also development in the economic, cultural and other fields. Thus, we can say that what has been accomplished during the official visit of the Kuwaiti delegation to the USSR has proven that the philosophy of peace which bolsters national sovereignty and consolidates every people's right to self-determination and which opposes all policies of aggression and interference in the internal affairs of other countries has made a great positive step forward which will have an impact on the course of serious events in the Middle East in general and in the Gulf region and the Palestine quesion in particular.

Kuwait has thereby added yet another brick to the edifice of positive peace in light of the wise policy which it pursues under the guidance of the country's amir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad, and which is implemented by the Heir Apparent and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Salim as-Sabah.

AWACS SALE SEEN AS U.S. MEASURE AGAINST USSR

LD241212 Kuwait KUNA in English 1105 GMT 24 Apr 81

[From the press review: Kuwait TIMES editorial on proposed U.S. sale of AWACS to Saudi Arabia]

[Text] Kuwait, 24 Apr (KUNA)--"President Reagan's decision to go ahead with the sale of five Advance Warning and Control System (AWACS) aircraft to Saudi Arabia has intensified the stir which has centred round the issue for quite some time.

A number of U.S. Congress members, especially senators, who are known to be under the control of the Zionist lobby, have voiced vociferous opposition to the proposed sale on the same ground as that moved by Israel: that it will pose a threat to the Zionist state. The great surveillance capability of the AWACS, it is argued, would enable the Saudis to detect any Israeli troops and plane movements and will thereby deprive the Israeli militarists of one of their main strategic advantages, that is, a surprise attack on the Arabs.

"It might appear rather ironical that while the United States (?is the) chief protector and arms as well as economic aid supplier to Israel, President Reagan has decided [words indistinct] to Saudi Arabia despite the hue and cry raised by Israel and its agents in the United States. However, the obious and simple explanation is that in the U.S. strategy the AWACS for Saudi Arabia is conceived as a part of the American military measures against [word indistinct] Soviet advance in the region."

QATAR

AR-RAYAH SEES NO CHANGE IN UK STAND ON ARAB ISSUES

JN261651 Doha QNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 26 Apr 81

[Text] Doha, 26 Apr (QNA)--The Qatari newspaper AR-RAYAH has expressed the conviction that the visit made to the region by British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has not resulted in any palpable changes in Britian's stand on the Arab issue and legitimate Palestinian rights. The newspaper pointed out that Mrs Thatcher reiterated the same, previous British stand on the Arab-Israeli conflict during her tour.

In its editorial today the newspaper explained that the leaders of the region made three major points during their talks with the British prime minister. First, the Arab issue, particularly the Palestinian issue, is the crux of the Middle East crisis and the danger which threatens the security of the region and the world. Second, the solution lies in restoring the legitimate rights of the Palesinian people through their sole and legitimate representative the PLO. Third, international conflicts must be kept out of the Gulf region so that it can achieve its security, which is the responsibility of its states and people.

The newspaper said that Mrs Thatcher made three parallel points which differed in form and content. She reiterated the slogan about the Soviet danger. She stressed that she would go ahead with the United States in forming the Rapid Deployment Force in preparation for any emergency. At the same time that Thatcher reiterated her refusal to recognize the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, she insisted that this representative should recognize the entity which usurped its land and dispersed its people.

The newspaper concluded its editorial by saying that Mrs Thatcher ended her tour emptyhanded; neither could she sell her goods nor would the states of the region barter their rights and security for the mirage of the old diplomatic statements. The only value and benefit of this tour is that it explained again that we are following two roads which might meet at some point but differ in direction and destination.

SAUDI ARABIA

UKAZ CITES MINISTER ON AWACS DEAL, ARMS POLICY

LD271157 Jidda 'UKAZ in Arabic 20 Apr 81 p 1

[By 'Abd al-Wahid]

[Text] Riyadh--Information Minister Dr Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani has expressed his surprise over the rabid propaganda campaign the Zionist circles are launching against the arms which the kingdom is seeking from the United States.

In the course of his reply to a question by 'UKAZ as to what he expects the outcome of this deal to be, his highness said: It is painful and surprising that such campaigns reach their climax when the kingdom asks for arms while nothing is said when others make similar requests. His highness pointed out that when the kingdom asks for arms, it does so on the basis of its eagerness to ensure its own safety and protect its territories and to be able to shoulder its great responsibilities. His highness said that the kingdom has never used arms to commit aggression against anyone. The kingdom's concern is to strengthen its military power in order to defend itself and protect its territories and the holy places. This is its right and it will not succumb to any pressures in acquiring arms.

His highness then referred to the kingdom's evenhanded policy and its stance in support of peace. He said that those who are afraid of the Arab states arming themselves are the ones who are fighting peace and seeking to upset the military balance in the area so that they alone will dominate and have the ability to threaten any state whenever they want to.

His highness concluded his statement to 'UKAZ by saying: We hope that all the states of the world will understand one important fact about this country, namely, that it is a country of security, stability and peace and therefore it has no aggressive intentions against anybody, but at no time can it stand idle in relation to any aggression against its sovereignty and existence.

Riyadh Commentary

LD241530 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 23 Apr 81

[Husayn al-Askari commentary]

[Text] His Royal Highness Amir Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of defense and aviation, has expressed the kingdom's satisfaction at the progress of plans to supply the kingdom with U.S. F-15 aircraft and at the White House agreement to supply the additional equipment requested for these aircraft.

Despite the distorted treatment by foreign mass media of the kingdom's purchase of some U.S. military equipment, reporting based on information supplied by sources hostile to the Arabs who hope through their biased campaign to give the international community the impression that the kingdom's purchase of advanced military equipment means tipping the balance of power in the Middle East in favor of the Arabs, the White House announcement of its readiness to supply the kingdom with the requested equipment was an endorsement of the kingdom's demands which stem from its size and the stability factor it represents and from the fact that the kingdom is unique in that it requires its friends to deal with it out of their conviction that the moderation and foresight of the Saudi leadership are effective factors not only for the stability of the Middle East, but also for world peace.

The artificial fuss created by the Israeli enemy and its agents in some Western media over this issue is aimed at turning the attention of the international community away from the repeated Israeli aggressions against Lebanon and the camps of Palestinian refugees and from the rejection of every attempt aimed at achieving a just and lasting settlement of the Palestine problem. Those who reject peace fear the arming of the kingdom. They want to continue to have the upper hand and hold the initiative in order to be able to commit aggression and threaten world peace.

For Saudi Arabia to remain strong requires the building of its armed forces so that its strength goes hand-in-hand with the size of the responsibilities it shoulders at the international level. The economic force which the kingdom represents with its importance to and effectiveness in the securing of mankind's welfare is less important than its other dimension--its position in the Muslim world and as a bright light for humanitarian values. All this requires that it should be strong by today's standards to protect and preserve not only the values of its own people, but those of all mankind.

UAE

OFFICIAL CALLS PALESTINIAN CAUSE 'FOREMOST ISSUE'

GF271333 Dubayy Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Apr 81

[Text] Rashid 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, has affirmed the UAE's support for the Palestinian people and their legitimate right to regain their homeland. Speaking at the opening of the second diplomatic qualification course that has been organized by the Foreign Ministry, Rashid 'Abdallah said: The security and stability of the Gulf region is part of the Arab nation's security and stability. This can be achieved only by resolving the issues facing the Arab nation, and the foremost issue is the Palestinian cause. He added: The UAE president, Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, stressed this stand to British Prime Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher during her recent visit to the UAE.

The minister of state for foreign affairs denied that Mrs Thatcher had tried to persuade the Arab countries to accept the U.S. role in the area. He declared: The Gulf countries' policy centers on supporting Arab rights and defending the Arabs' causes of destiny.

PDRY

'ALI NASIR WARNS OF THREAT TO GULF REGION

LD242046 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 24 Apr 81 EA

[Speech by 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium and the Council of Ministers, at the opening of the Extraordinary General Congress of the Yemeni Socialist Youth Union on 24 April--recorded]

[Excerpts] Dear comrades of the Yemeni Socialist Youth Union [YSYU] Extraordinary General Congress: I am happy to be attending this solemn session marking the opening of your extraordinary general congress. I wish to greet you warmly and heartily on behalf of the YSP Central Committee, the Political Bureau and all the YSP militants. [applause]

Comrades, you are aware of the serious threats to our country and equally to our region and indeed to all the peoples of the world posed by the world imperialist inslaught. The United States and other imperialist states are building their bases and deploying their naval fleets not far from the shores of our country and the countries of the Gulf, the Arabian Peninsula and the Horn of Africa. The purpose of the rapid interventionist force is to undermine our states and threaten the stability and security of our region's countries. Its purpose is to plunder and even to completely dominate the resources of our countries.

As you know we have taken the initiative of calling for an urgent summit of the countries of the region and all parties concerned in a serious and earnest search for ways to remove all hostile military bases and naval fleets. We continue to press for our constructive and responsible proposals, which will serve not only our own interests but also those of all the peoples of the Gulf and peninsular nations, as well as the nations of the Horn of Africa. They will also serve the interests of all our Arab peoples, who are today the victims of the most ferocious colonialist, Zionist and reactionary onslaught.

The Lebanese National Movement's struggle and steadfastness as well as that of all the Lebanese people must be supported in the face of the puppets of Israel and all the denominations [as heard] and forces bent on partitioning Lebanon. We cannot confront or abort this Zionist-reactionary design without the alliance, cooperation and friendship of the friendly USSR, true to our Arab peoples [applause] and the other socialist countries which firmly support our just Arab causes.

Comrades, I would like to assure you that the YSP is proud of the YSYU for being the active reserve and true assistant to the party, loyal and true to the party's noble and sublime objectives. The YSYU has always worked for the unity and organization of youth in order to contribute to the process of national economic and social construction. It has defended the revolution and resolutely resisted all forms of deviation from the party line--class, political and ideological--the line of the theory of scientific socialism and its purity. We are confident that the YSYU will do so.

Comrade delegates to the congress, we are confident that the YSYU is always ready to carry out the tasks and duties laid down for it. However, I shall be frank with you. We have always been frank with one another and always will. Not everything done by the YSYU has been done in the best manner possible, nor have all the tasks that the party assigned the YSYU been implemented correctly expeditiously. Your work still falls short of objectives. This is not to belittle your role and its significance in the past. It is only natural that some major tasks fall short of goals. However, what is very unbecoming is our reluctance to rid ourselves of shortcomings in our work.

Permit me to point out, if only in part, some of the significant shortcomings affecting the main tasks of your work in various spheres and important issues to which you should give greater attention. It is clear that your union has not given organizational expansion great attention, even though there have been some unexpected difficulties in attracting youth to the YSYU. There are many young people who are are not members of the YSYU, who remain out of the political, social and cultural activities of your union. One of the principal tasks before you is to attract non-YSYU members by persuading them to join your union voluntarily, of their own free will. If yours is to be a truly mass cultural organization, then you must expand the membership of your union, particularly to include the youth, workers, students, peasants and [word indistinct]. This expansion should be coupled with improved cultural, artistic, athletic and other social activities.

We oppose any irrelevant, meaningless activities of no educational value. I must now stress that your union's work among students and school pupils suffers from many negative aspects in spite of your great efforts. You must strengthen and redouble your efforts now and in the future. The university students in particular will be occupying positions of management in the national economy, in its various branches and in government bodies and corporations. You should work with and take an interest in them to derive benefit from their potential. I am certain that many of them wish to join the YSYU and may also wish to subsequently have the honor of party membership.

If your path is to be danger free, you must help the party become a suitable path to the future for you and your successors. You must contribute towards promoting our progressive regime, protecting the democratic national authority, strengthening the role of the toiling masses, (?foiling) strife, fighting all forms of sabotage and bureaucracy and securing legitimacy [as heard].

You are responsible for promoting nationalist education among the youth, including political education [words indistinct] imperialist, Zionist and reactionary plots against our progressive regime and all of our Yemeni people, as well as against the national liberation movements and our Arab peoples. You must apply every means to expose, resist and foil such plots through strong, fraternal solidarity with progressive and nationalist youth and student organizations and the national liberation movement in the Arab countries. You must also impart internationalist teaching to the youth of our country as a prerequisite for national and class consciousness on the basis of scientific socialism. You must also strengthen your friendship with the youth in socialist countries, above all in the friendly USSR. [applause]

I wish you success. Long live the YSYU. [applause] Glory to the YSP. Glory to the great Yemeni people. [applause]

AS-SADAT INTERVIEWED ON MIDEAST ISSUES, RELATIONS

NC250945 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0737 GMT 25 Apr 81

["Text" of Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat interview with Anis Mansur of OCTOBER magazine--date and place not specified]

[Text] Cairo, 25 Apr (MENA)--President Anwar as-Sadat has stated that he has asked the U.S. ambassador in Cairo to convey his warm congratulations to U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Secretary of State Alexander Haig on their decision to arm Saudi Arabia. In an interview which he granted to Anis Mansur, the chief editor of OCTOBER magazine, President as-Sadat added that he would be the happiest man if the early warning AWACS flew in the skies over Saudi Arabia.

Concerning his forthcoming visit to Sudan, President as-Sadat said that he will have a long session with Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri and that he will attend the military parade to be staged in Khartoum on the occasion of the celebrations marking the anniversary of 25 March revolution and then return directly to Cairo. President as-Sadat said that he is satisfied with the conditions in Sudan and that he blesses President Numayri's steps to purify the Arab atmosphere.

In his interview, which the OCTOBER magazine will publish tomorrow, President as-Sadat disclosed that he has agreed to the Americans constructing military bases for the Egyptian Army in order to enable it to give the necessary aid for the American forces in their defense, if necessary, of the security of the Gulf area, Indonesia and the Arab Maghreb.

The following is the text of President as-Sadat's interview with the OCTOBER magazine:

Question: Were I to ask you about what is new in the Arab situation, would you consider it as an old or meaningless question because the situation in the Arab world has reached the degree of raving? Nobody knows where this situation begins or where it ends, unless there are developments that we do not see or contacts that we are not aware of that would definitely lead to a meaningful change in the Arab situation. I heard you speaking to a European personality a few days ago and saying that the Arab situation is very much like theater of the absurd.

Answer: Very regrettably it is so. Had the matter been connected with a theatrical production, that is to say, a writer holding a pen and writing whatever he imagines, then it would have been an easy matter. But there are no pens in the Arab situation, there are only guns and rockets that write with blood. It is true that there are some pens, but these pens write checks in sums of hundreds of millions of pounds as a price for innocent Arab blood.

Question: Also, don't you believe that the generalization of the talk about the Middle East harms Egypt, which is the summit of the Middle East? Don't you believe that we are thus convicting Egypt that its attitude is illogical too?

Answer: Yes, this is a conviction against Egypt. You will be surprised to know that I have asked the Arabs to convict Egypt and say that As-Sadat has erred. I asked President Hafiz al-Asad to do so 2 days before I went to Jerusalem. I told him: Hold a press conference and accuse me. Say that I am wrong. Say that I agree with you on the aim but disagree with you on the method. It is not necessary that we should agree fully. Each of us has his circumstances and ability to convince his people with the justice of their cause. Hafiz al-Asad did nothing of this sort. I admire some European leaders who said: We do not object to the first half of the Camp David agreement and as-Sadat is free regarding what concerns Egypt. This is a matter which concerns him and his people and we have no reservations on the first half of the agreement relating to autonomy. Consequently, there is no harm in saying so and there is no harm if this attitude is a challenge to all of us, regardless of who is right and who is wrong. I hope some Arab did the same. But, as usual, the Arabs say no to everything without giving any reasons.

Question: Therefore, there is nothing new in all that we say. This makes it difficult for us to get hold of one end of the worn out Arab string, although it is easy for us to tell ourselves, when looking at the political and military confusion in the Middle East, that there is not one fact on which the Arabs or the world have agreed.

Answer: There is one indisputable fact. It is the dazzling positive fact that has earned the admiration of the world: There will be no wars after the October war, as I declared at the Knesset. This was not a mere declaration or a slogan. It is a fact that we have established through dialogue, disagreement and agreement. Nobody needs to be an extraordinary genius to see that Israel is withdrawing from Sinai. We are now discussing the question of the emergency forces which will guarantee the withdrawal to the international borders. This is the established fact and anything else is ignorance, illusion and many other descriptions which I am tired of mentioning.

It is enough for you to see what Syria has done and is doing in Lebanon. You find in Lebanon a gangster who has tanks and rockets and who tramples upon innocent people, whom he claimed he wanted to defend. The rest of this tragedy is known to all of us. Is there a more blatant contradiction?

Question: Is this the only contradiction in the Arab world? There are other contradictions, but on more respectable levels. For example, why does Egypt give arms to Iraq, which led the rejection camp and the defamation and slandering of Egypt, which hired the pens that it is using against us and declared that Saddam Husayn is Saladin at times and Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir at others? After Iraq obtained the arms that Khomeyni's planes had destroyed these pens denied the deal and continued their attack against Egypt. Egypt denounces the war between Muslim Iran and Muslim Iraq. Under the circumstances, is the supply of arms to Iraq not an encouragement for the continuation of this war, even for 1 day?

Answer: You are right, there appears to be a contradiction. But I have other reasons, which I have explained on many occasions. There is no harm in reiterating them: Iraq helped us with rockets during the October war. We remember this stand and will never forget it; this is an ethical matter. If Iraq were to come and ask for this moral debt, we would rise to help it exactly the same way you would do if a debtor were to come and ask you to pay your debt. You would pay back the money without laying conditions on where and how to spend it. Experiments have taught me that there is a big difference between the science of arithmetic and history. The line is straight on paper, but it is not always straight in life. There are pressuring conditions in life that make the trees shake and the waves rise; they make the most straightforward shapes twist and the most solid shake. Therefore, we know and appreciate the conditions of others and I wait--my patience knows no limits.

Prior to Iraq, we helped Jordan. When the Syrian forces concentrated along Jordan's borders, the Americans asked me for permission for the passage of their planes which carried spare parts for Jordan. I immediately agreed, despite King Husayn's known attitude. When Saudi Arabia needed U.S. radar planes the United States asked for permission for these planes to fly across Egyptian airspace. Husni Mubarak gave permission without referring to me because permission for the passage of any weapons needed by Saudi Arabia is a political line. Husni Mubarak gave permission and told me later. We also gave arms to Somalia. We will also help any Arab or Islamic state. This is a principled line, or in other words, it is connected with a principle in Egyptian policy. This line will remain firm despite all hostile attitudes toward Egypt. The reiteration of these decisions is the biggest proof that one string still exists. This string is that Egypt will never abandon its help to any Arab or Muslim brother anywhere.

Question: Arab and foreign capitals are saying that "contacts" are underway between Egypt, Morocco and other Arab states. It has been said that Morocco is the state which will restore its relations with Egypt, on the basis that Moroccan public opinion stands ready for this action. Those who have returned from Rabat say that they are speaking with great gratitude about the role that Egypt has played in helping Morocco and that the ammunition which Egypt had sent to Morocco helped spare the desert city of (Masirah) from falling to the Polisario forces. A well-known journalist and friend was in Cairo last week. He said there is similarity between Morocco's position and Egypt's position. Just as Sudan constitutes a strategic depth for Egypt, Mauritania also constitutes a strategic depth for Morocco. A communist takeover of Mauritania is like a communist takeover of Sudan. This similarity in the danger which is posed to Egypt and Morocco makes them more prepared than ever before to draw closer to each other and to support each other against the Soviet march, which pushes Al-Qadhdhafi and the Cubans southward and westward.

Answer: It is difficult for me to mention Morocco without feeling that I am most sad and exasperated, because I had a saddening experience with King Hassan. This experience teems with disappointment and despair; it is a plight over the loss of a friend whom, regrettably, I cannot buy with the money for which he had sold me. Some 2 months ago, King Hassan announced to the world that I had "entreated" him to allow me to stop over in Rabat on my way back from Camp David--I had entreated him. He knows, and our ambassador and his ambassador also know, that he had asked me to do so. I did not need to stop over in his country because I intended to rest for a day in Europe, after which I would return to Egypt. However, he "entreated" me and I stopped over in Morocco. It was not difficult for my political sense to realize the difficult situation. I frankly told King Hassan of my desire to address the Moroccan Parliament in order to put forward to them my Knesset speech and the Camp David agreement. I also wanted to tell them: This is the position of Egypt and this is the position of the Arabs; what is your opinion? My objective was to make his position easy, because I know his circumstances and I know the price that Saudi Arabia pays to purchase the parties and the ministers. I know all these things and I do not respect him. I was to justify his actions, but now I cannot nor would I like to impose my viewpoint on him, just as I do not like him to impose his opinion. But Saudi Arabia had agreed with the two kings, Hassan and Husayn. Even more surprising, King Hassan sent someone to tell me that he would go to the Baghdad summit conference to defend Egypt's viewpoint to the end of the things which earned him a $1 billion from Saudi Arabia. However, the aid which was extended to King Hassan is like all the aid which Egypt has offered--a question of principle. This might also be the general feeling in Morocco, because the information at my disposal reveals something close to this feeling, although I differ as to the significiance of Mauritania to Morocco and the significance of Sudan to Egypt. The reason is that all the Moroccans consider themselves as hailing from Mauritania, because Mauritania is the origin. Morocco, though, can live without Mauritania. However, a different situation exists between us and Sudan. Our relationship with Sudan is one of life and death. Water, which is the life of all of us, comes from Sudan, and with water came our common history. What exists between us and Sudan is blood and kinship.

The Sudanese minister for presidential affairs came here 2 days ago bringing to me President Numayri's invitation to visit Sudan on its national day. God willing, I will go. I will have a long session with President Numayri and I will attend the military parade, immediately after which I will return to Egypt. I am gratified with the situation in Sudan. I also bless the steps which President Numayri is taking to "clear" the Arab atmosphere.

Question: You have not mentioned that Egypt has aided Chad. Is Egypt still aiding Chad and is this aid changing the course of events in that country?

Answer: When Al-Qadhdhafi's cousin visited me in Mit Abu al-Kawm on 25 December last year, and when he visited me another time in Paris in February, I asked him to convey a message to Al-Qadhdhafi in which I said: Your entry into Chad is a very costly mistake. The same holds true for Saddam Husayn's entry into a war with Iran; the price will be high and this war will bring woe unto the two sides.

However, the situation has completely deteriorated in Chad. It is becoming increasingly worse and it is incumbent on all of us to keep an eye on the course of events because the fire is no longer far from anyone.

Question: A month ago I participated in discussions with Kenyan President Moi, Somali President Barre and Sudanese President Numayri. The theme was: Why don't we do as President as-Sadat has done? One of us would land in his foe's country and hold a dialogue with him. Thus, and through peace, one would be guided to that which was impossible to achieve through war. Also, Your Excellency Mr President, you again thought of going to the Knesset to raise the question of autonomy and of Jerusalem. Many Arabs and others wonder: Why doesn't President as-Sadat land his plane at Riyadh and raise the Arab-Egyptian differences. His trip to Riyadh will not be more difficult or complicated than his trip to Jerusalem. Your Excellency Mr President, this idea appears and disappears every time a world personage moves between Cairo and Riyadh.

Answer: When I met Senator Baker, U.S. Senate majority leader, following his return from Saudi Arabia, he told me that there is a general belief in the Arab world, and also in the United States, that As-Sadat can find a solution and that he has definitely found a solution. The reason is that he who has solved the issue of the Arab-Israeli conflict will find no difficulty in resolving the other problems arising from inter-Arab differences. This indeed surprises me. Am I supposed to find a solution for those who have broken off their ties with Egypt and who have insulted Egypt and threatened to starve it? I admit that I have solutions, and not just one solution. I have discussed some of these solutions in the United States and in Europe and some of the solutions have found their way to some Arab capitals. The problem facing me is not what I am thinking of, but the extent to which the others would accept it.

There is nothing easier for me than to take my plane and land at Riyadh. I know beforehand what will happen. The Saudi leaders are polite and courteous people. They will give me full honors, because I am an Arab and Muslim president and because I will be their guest. I will sit with them and discuss things with them. I might even convince them and they might feign having been convinced. However, the problem resides in the extent of their psychological and political readiness to be convinced. I will not deceive myself by saying that they stand prepared to accept "the Egyptian solution." What is more important than this trip to Riyadh, more important than good intentions and sincere determination and more important than noble aims is that their hearts should be open to this action.

Question: Some thinkers believe that your full agreement to and welcome of U.S. aid to Saudi Arabia is considered a turning point in the "hidden" relations between Saudi Arabia and Egypt, and if not a turning point then a step toward the rapprochment between the two countries, or else they are a strange and sudden decision.

Answer: I met with the U.S. ambassador 2 days ago and asked him to convey my warm congratulations to U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Secretary of State Alexander Haig on their decision to arm Saudi Arabia. I would be the happiest man if the early warning AWACS flew in the Saudi skies. This is neither strange nor is it a puzzle. It is a principled Egyptian stand and a historic responsibility in defending the Arab and Islamic states. We must help them and support everyone who helps them. When we gave military facilities to the United States in Egypt our main object was to defend the security of the Gulf.

When we helped the Americans in their effort to rescue their hostages in Iran, the purpose was to provide a facility for the United States, which is helping us very much, and to defend Islam, which Khomeyni has distorted. Egypt hosted the shah because of his good deed during its affliction and because he was a sick Muslim friend.

When the U.S. ambassador came with letters that had been exchanged between Egypt and the United States, I introduced some amendments which I considered important and fundamental, to these letters. These letters are connected with the facilities to the United States to defend the security of the Gulf, and I added Indonesia and the Arab Maghreb to the Gulf. By virtue of its geographical position in the middle of Asia, Africa and Europe, Egypt is the center of these continents. Therefore, its aid should extend in all these directions because the danger surrounding us is one. Now that we know where this danger comes from and where it is directed it is our duty to prepare for it.

These letters also deal with the Americans building military bases for the Egyptian Army in order to enable it, when necessary, to extend the necessary aid to U.S. forces.

To those who are surprised by Egypt's support for the arming of Saudi Arabia, I will add to their surprise and say that when Saudi Arabia announced last September that it would not agree to the presence of U.S. bases or forces on its territory I was astonished, because it is in need of these forces, and it asked for them but lacks the courage to announce this need openly, due to its fear of Iraq, Syria and the Palestinians. However, I sent a message to U.S. President Carter saying: I am prepared to host in Egypt all the forces, regardless of their size, that you will need to help Saudi Arabia. I am helping Saudi Arabia thus because the situation is more grave than the Saudis imagine. What is more dangerous is to belittle this fact and shut our eyes to it. Saudi Arabia is the sleeping duck; that is to say, it is relaxed and its eyes are shut. This is a luxury which we cannot afford.

If the Saudis do not clearly understand what is going on in their country and around it, what do they know? Is it possible for them to forget what has occurred in Iran and what has befallen Afghanistan? Is it possible for them to forget what can happen again in Saudi Arabia itself? The situation is still serious. Nor is it in the interest of Saudi Arabia or of the Gulf states that the Iraqi-Iranian war should last a long time. Perhaps an opinion might be that this war is draining the resources of the two states, which are leading the Gulf by terrorizing and intimidating it. This is quite possible. However, what does history tell us about the neighboring states which had revived their old disputes and had thus spilled innocent blood on both sides? Even if this war does not lead to national disgrace, then disgrace will disappear from the scene only to give way to revenge. Revenge will lead to the mobilization of hatred in the form of artillery and missile batteries. These weapons of destruction will exhaust the people's wealth--and Iran and Iraq are two wealthy states. However, they are now both threatened with poverty, because the wells have dried up, or have almost dried up. Iraq has asked the Arab states to help it in this war. These states sent $13 billion with extreme speed: The Arabs sent this money at top speed. But when it came to Egypt, which had crossed with the whole Arab nation, the Arabs gave Egypt $2 billion throughout 10 months of humiliation. However, we cannot use Saddam Husayn's method of terrorizing the kings and the princes; starvation is easier for us. This is a long and tedious story too!

The Arabs know that Saddam Husayn's credit in American banks alone amounts to $30 billion. This credit was reduced recently to $27 billion. Therefore, it was imperative for them to help him in his war against the Persians. Let the Arabs do as they please. However, we have the right to ask about the reason for this discrimination in treatment. We are fighting for the sake of the Arab causes and the Palestinian issue. What is Iraq fighting for? What has Syria achieved? When Syria massed its troops on the Jordanian border it received $500 million from Saudi Arabia. Syria withdrew its forces to destroy Lebanon and thousands of its sons. What is this logic? How can one reach an understanding?

Believe me, I found no difficulty in reaching an understanding with Begin and his ministers the first time I met them, and there existed between us and them a great deal of blood and bitterness that had accrued over 40 years and 4 wars. Furthermore, they are all die-hard hawks. However, I found it difficult to reach an understanding with Hafiz al-Asad, whom I asked to differ, not to agree, with me.

Therefore, I do not believe that while shuttling between Damascus and Tel Aviv Dr Kissinger was confused and did not know whether his interlocutors were Syrians or Israelis. The purpose of this anecdote is to convey the message that the Syrians and the Israelis use the same method of obduracy. However, my experience emphasizes something else. The reason is that the difference between the Syrians and the Israelis is very extensive--just as extensive as the difference between ignorance and knowledge or between joking and seriousness. Begin and his ministers were very serious. This is why it was possible to reach an understanding with them.

Question: Do you follow the course of the election campaign in Israel and who do you expect to occupy Begin's seat in the government--Begin or the opposition?

Answer: I follow them from time to time and I see the graph with the figures pointing up and down. However, I am not preoccupied with the campaign for the simple reason that I will cooperate with any person whom the Israeli people choose. It does not concern me who this person may be for the simple reason that we have established the rule of understanding between us. It is established on dialogue; we have achieved through dialogue what we have failed to achieve by war--this is what the Arab brothers must learn. Peace has led to the removal of the obstacles and the barrier in a magnificent way. Therefore, I am satisfied with what is being achieved in a normal way between Egypt and Israel.

I now find great pleasure in reading 'Ezer Weizman's memoirs, which you will be publishing in OCTOBER magazine. 'Ezer astonishes me by his frankness and his simplicity in his memoirs. He has shifted from doubting every word I say to believing all I say. He has shifted from fear of my initiative to faith in the need to adhere to it. For some reason that I don't clearly know I trusted 'Ezer from the first moment and a deep friendship developed between us. How did I discover this in him? I don't know. It might be discernment, which is never disappointing. Therefore, when reading his memoirs I know very well the depth and sincerity of every word he says. His memoirs are the biggest proof of the great and deep change which has befallen the Israeli fighter as a result of the peace initiative, dialogue, direct contact and understanding. This is natural; this is how it should be among the peoples. The hatred and bitterness that existed between us ended forever after the October War. The door of life, cooperation and good-neighbor relations was opened after the peace initiative.

I met with Agriculture Minister Dr Mahmud Dawud 2 days ago, and he was accompanied by the Israeli deputy prime minister. The question of inviting Israeli Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon to visit Egypt was raised. I approved the invitation and will let him come at any time he finds appropriate. If Sharon has views which we do not approve of on a specific topic, then we must discuss these views with him and not boycott him. Let us not stop the dialogue or despair from reaching a solution. We will benefit from their experience in agriculture and irrigation. I agreed to benefit from their expertise in land irrigation.

Question: A last question is whether Egypt has decided anything, with or without the United Nations, regarding the emergency forces which will protect the stages of the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai? The Israeli and American papers have reported sharp differences among the parties, requiring a tripartite summit.

Answer: This is much too exaggerated. When U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig came here, we agreed on everything, and there was no disagreement on anything between Egypt and the United States. The United States fully accepts my point of view concerning sovereignty and that there will be no U.S. bases on Egyptian territory.

We are sensitive to this. Although the United States has huge bases in Britain you have not heard of or read in the British press that the United States is occupying Britain. I stopped at one of these huge American bases on my way to the United States. I was told that this was a small base and that there were 20 other bases in Britain.

We see two examples in the world: There are the Warsaw Pact states, such as Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland. We know what the Soviet tanks did when they marched on Czechoslovakia and Hungary to discipline the people and humiliate them so that they would be a lesson to the other Soviet satellite states. We also know what Brezhnev has recently told Poland. He has threatened and menaced it and he can do with it whatever he wants and whenever he wants.

The other example is Turkey and Greece, two NATO members. Turkey closed down 24 American bases and suspended U.S. activities because the United States disagreed with it on politics. The U.S. President did not utter one threat against Turkey. When the United States reformed its policy, the U.S. bases were reopened.

I personally have no qualms at all about joining NATO. The danger facing us is one. Moreover, the United States does not undermine Egyptian sovereignty or the sovereignty of any NATO member state. Although France has no U.S. bases on its territory, it would summon the United States if it is exposed to danger. No French citizen would then say: Our country is under American occupation.

Offhand we know the attitude of the Soviets. We knew it during the first stage of the withdrawal from Al-'Arish to Ra's Muhammad. The Soviets used the veto right against us concerning the withdrawal to the international borders. They have done this and will do it again. Therefore, we agreed to explore the opinion of the Soviets. Our permanent delegate at the United Nations, 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, contacted them. The result was as expected; the Russians have not changed. It is indeed strange that a great power like the Soviet Union should advocate peace and establish world peace councils and then object to the establishment of peace between Egypt and Israel or Israel and the Arabs.

In the Egyptian-Israel treaty we anticipated this Soviet position. We noted the need for agreement among the three of us--Egypt, the United States and Israel. I am of the opinion that the necessary force should be small--not exceeding 2,000 soldiers. I have issued instructions to the foreign minister to prepare the final agreement in this regard.

It is really surprising that the 'Abd an-Nasir beneficiaries society says that I was the first to contact the Americans, although this is what Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir did in May 1970. 'Abd an-Nasir had appealed to President Nixon, and as a result the Americans presented the Rogers initiative. 'Abd an-Nasir announced his acceptance of this initiative while he was sitting with the Kremlin leaders. This was a shock to them. But despair of the Russians ended all the patience which 'Abd an-Nasir had. This is the political flexibility for the sake of the fateful decisions which a political leader makes. He forgot all the personal humiliation and no longer thought about anything else but Egypt and his people but those whose thoughts are governed by inflexible cliches are petrified people who do not move. Those who say that the Americans are expansionists and imperialists or that the British used to occupy Egypt as well as Israel should not be dealt with; they are unrealistic people.

But if we were in need of sophisticated weapons and cannot produce them ourselves where should we go to get them? Should we go to the Russians? We tried them until we kneeled down. If the Americans offer us weapons should we turn them down? If the British do the same should we decline to accept because they used to occupy Egypt? They used to occupy Egypt and we moved them out--and this dark period has ended and we have the chance to begin a new era. Should we reject that? Israel fought us and defeated us. Then we fought Israel and defeated it. We want to end the suffering, misery, bittnerness and hatred. We had the chance to do that and succeeded. Should we stop in the middle of the road because Israel fought us in the past?

Yes, Israel did fight us, but we agreed to end all wars. Our land, people, oil and canal were returned to us. Above all we restored Egypt's dignity and the esteem of the Arabs. Our people have not placed us in our high positions in order to impose on them our personal moods and to sacrifice them for the sake of a personal insult. Our peoples elevated us in order to elevate them; they chose us in order to choose them. I chose Egypt and devoted my life to it. May God help us bear the little hardship facing us. We thank God for filling our coffers with the revenues from the canal, the oil and the production of our workers everywhere.

AL-BAZ VIEWS SINAI FORCE, AWACS AIRCRAFT ISSUE

NC281006 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0656 GMT 28 Apr 81

[Text] Cairo, 28 Apr (MENA)--Foreign Ministry First Under Secretary Dr Usamah al-Baz has said that an agreement will be reached in May on the formation of the peacekeeping force that will supervise the final Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai. He said there is no reason for delaying the withdrawal and that it will take place on time in accordance with the Camp David accords.

In an interview published in the Cairo newspaper AL-AKHBAR today, Dr al-Baz said that the United States will undertake the formation of the multinational peacekeeping force in accordance with the provisions of the peace treaty. He said that the parties concerned have resorted to the formation of this force because of the difficulty encountered in forming a UN emergency force. Dr Usamah al-Baz added that an agreement will also be reached in May on the formation of the international observers force that will be deployed inside Israel's border.

Dr al-Baz affirmed that Egypt will not grant any facilities or bases in the Sinai to any state, including the United States. He also affirmed that there will be no link between the peacekeeping force and any other force--or the Rapid Deployment Force.

Dr al-Baz described the Israeli uproar regarding the supply of the AWACS early warning planes to Saudi Arabia as fabricated and unjustified. He said that these planes will be used to guarantee the security of Saudi Arabia and not to attack Israel.

GHALI DEPARTS FOR LONDON, GENEVA VISITS 27 APR

NC270955 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0905 GMT 27 Apr 81

[Text] Cairo, 27 Apr (MENA)--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali left Cairo this morning for London on a 5-day visit at the head of a Foreign Ministry delegation. During his visit Ghali will hold talks with British officials, especially Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington and Douglas Hurd, minister of state for the Foreign Office and official in charge of the Middle East on current international issues, the Middle East question and the European initiative to give impetus to the Middle East peace process. The importance of the talks is derived from the fact that Britain will assume the chairmanship of the Ministerial Council of the European Community on 1 July.

Ghali will also discuss Britain's stand in its capacity as one of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council toward the formation of a UN peacekeeping force in Sinai.

Following his visit to Britain, Ghali will make a 4-day visit to Switzerland to attend the UN International Law Committee meeting in Geneva.

AL-AHRAM COMMENTS ON GHALI'S TALKS IN LONDON

NC270957 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0610 GMT 27 Apr 81

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-AHRAM comments editorially today on the talks Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali will hold with British officials.

It says that the talks are being held shortly before Britain will chair the EC's ministerial session and under circumstances in which two important aspects pertinent to the moves toward peace need impetus to further speed progress.

The first aspect concerns the Palestinian autonomy talks, which are stalemated because of the Israeli stand. Europe, within the broad lines of its declared Middle East initiative and guarantees for the parties concerned, is considering the possibility of activating the stalemated situation through alternatives and views consistent with the Camp David framework and the avenue it has opened for a comprehensive peace.

The second aspect is that the U.S. stand toward the Middle East is about to be crystallized following the Reagan administration's assessment and Secretary of State Haig's tour of the area and certain West European capitals' decisions to complement the crystallization of the U.S. stand. Europe, with its international weight and the fact that its security is linked with the area's peace and stability and its readiness to submit alternatives, views and guarantees, represents an important and necessary role under these circumstances. Egypt has called for and it welcomed a European role when Europe announced its initiative. This shows the importance of the talks Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Ghali will have in the British capital.

AL-AKHBAR VIEWS AIM OF AL-QADHDHAFI MOSCOW VISIT

NC281005 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0610 GMT 28 Apr 81

[From the press review]

[Text] In an article headlined "Al-Qadhdhafi in Moscow," AL-AKHBAR says: At last Al-Qadhdhafi has left for Moscow. It has taken him a long time to get there, although there has been much talk about a visit. The Soviet leaders seem to have emphatically urged him to come and so he had to hasten to Moscow to hear what they wanted him to do.

AL-AKHBAR continues: News agency reports say the purpose behind Al-Qadhdhafi's visit to Moscow is familiar and well known. They say the Soviet leaders want to ask Al-Qadhdhafi to sign a friendship and cooperation treaty like the treaties they have signed with Syria's Al-Asad, the PDRY's 'Ali Nasir and the other members of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front, that is, the Soviet agents' front. They want to ask Al-Qadhdhafi for naval facilities so they can establish a base for their Mediterranean fleet to serve their purposes in the area and be a link between Syria and Libya following the failure of the merger affair. The Soviets also want to tell Al-Qadhdhafi frankly that they want to use Libya's territory, coast and airspace as a fulcrum for their movements in the Middle East. They want Libya to be a supply and support base for the hotbeds of disturbances they are creating in African, Asian and Arab countries.

AL-AKHBAR expresses the belief that the signing of such a treaty would constitute a new stage for Soviet action in the area. Undoubtedly, the Soviets after having moved through Al-Qadhdhafi now want to be able to move directly from Libya. They also want to have a second naval base in Libya.

Al-Qadhdhafi's visit to Moscow is the beginning of a new stage in Soviet activities. They are beginning this stage after having tightly linked the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front, or rather, the agents' front, with treaties of friendship and cooperation.

AL-AKHBAR further says: Since the Soviet Union wants Libya to serve as a fulcrum for its activities, it will certainly authorize all parties to play their role in this action. Thus, Algeria will play its role against Morocco, and 'Ali Nasir will play his role in the Arabian Peninsula, in Somalia and in the Horn of Africa region. As for Al-Asad's and Al-Qadhdhafi's roles, they are well known. Thus, Soviet activities will cover the entire area and turn the heart of the Middle East into an area of ebullition.

The Arabs must understand this and take it into consideration. Perhaps they then will take action to confront the activities the Soviets are planning as can be seen in Al-Qadhdhafi's new status with the Soviets.

REPORTAGE ON ROMANIAN INTERIOR MINISTER'S VISIT

As-Sadat Reception

AU261920 Bucharest Domestic Service in Romanian 1900 GMT 26 Apr 81

[Text] Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat received Romanian Minister of Interior George Homostean, who conveyed to the Egyptian head of state warm greetings from President Nicolae Ceausescu. Expressing thanks, President Anwar as-Sadat conveyed to Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu a cordial message. He highly praised Romania's foreign policy and President Nicolae Ceausescu's contribution to promoting peace and understanding among nations, and to finding a political settlement to the Middle East conflict capable of ensuring a just and lasting peace in that part of the world.

Mubarak Interview

AU261749 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1530 GMT 26 Apr 81

[Text] Cairo, 26 Apr (AGERPRES)--During the visit paid to Egypt, George Homostean, Romanian minister of internal affairs, called on Husni Mubarak, vice-president of the republic. During the interview the sides evoked with satisfaction the continuous development and diversification of the relations on multiple planes between the two countries and peoples.

Police Academy Visit

NC251732 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1640 GMT 25 Apr 81

[Text] Cairo, 25 Apr (MENA)--Romanian Interior Minister George Homostean, who is currently visiting Cairo, has praised the standard, efficiency and order of the Egyptian policemen and the sophisticated equipment they are using, which were not available in many other countries. The Romanian minister praised the high level of training and performance of members of the police force and their role in providing security and safety for the Egyptian people. He also praised the Police Academy mission and its role in training Egyptian police officers.

The Romanian minister made these statements following his tour this morning of the Police Academy. He was accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Nabawi Isma'il. The Romanian minister inspected the various establishments of the academy and watched a police exercise on the apprehension of criminals and discovering of explosives and narcotics and watched cavalry and police dog displays.

The Romanian interior minister said that his visit with Romanian police chiefs to Egypt was very useful in the field of exchanging expertise and information between the police in the two countries.

The Romanian minister invited Nabawi Isma'il to visit Romania to acquaint himself with the Romanian police activity and said that the deputy prime minister's visit will lead to promoting the relations and ties between the Egyptian and Romanian police and to furthering the exchange of expertise and information.

Nabawi Isma'il presented commemorative gifts to the Romanian minister and those accompanying him. The Romanian minister arrived in Cairo last Tuesday.

Isma'il Interview

AU240941 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 0820 GMT 24 Apr 81

[Text] Cairo, 24 Apr (AGERPRES)--George Homostean, Romanian minister of internal affairs, who is paying a visit to Egypt, had an interview with Muhammad Nabawi Isma'il, deputy prime minister and minister of interior of the host country. The good relations between the two countries and peoples were highlighted on the occasion, and a series of questions of mutual interest were discussed conducive to the strengthening of collaboration and friendship between Romania and the Arab Republic of Egypt.

AL-AHRAM SAYS NO CABINET RESHUFFLES PLANNED

NC272231 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2144 GMT 27 Apr 81

[Excerpt] Cairo, 27 Apr (MENA)--In tomorrow's edition, AL-AHRAM reports that there are no plans at present to reshuffle the Cabinet. The paper adds that, in view of the colossal achievements that the government is making, there is no need for a Cabinet reshuffle before a year passes. The president wants to provide a full opportunity for the assessment of one of the most serious and one of the greatest national battles in Egypt's history. This battle is one of internal reconstruction. It begins this year and centers on the following three important matters:

1. Producing food and achieving complete food security for the homeland.
2. Solving the housing crisis by setting up complete cities.
3. Increasing national production and moving, beginning next year, to the phase of abundant production in all the production sectors.

AL-AHRAM REPORTS TWO SABOTAGE GROUPS ARRESTED

NC281004 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0645 GMT 28 Apr 81

[Text] Cairo, 28 Apr (MENA)--AL-AHRAM today reports that during the last few days the state security investigation department succeeded in arresting two new sabotage groups which aimed at creating chaos and fear in Egypt. They were instigated by rejectionist elements abroad. The investigation of those arrested from the two groups is being conducted in complete secrecy in order to ascertain the dimensions of their plans. The two new cases will be made public after the state security department concludes its investigation.

'AZIZ DENIES RECEIPT OF SOVIET OFFER ON IRAN

NC251211 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1140 GMT 25 Apr 81

[Text] Beirut, 25 Apr (MENA)--Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz has denied that his country has received a Soviet offer through a socialist state on reaching an understanding on the future of Iran in return for military and political support.

In an interview published by the weekly AN-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AD-DUWALI, 'Aziz says that the Soviet Union has not abided by the provisions of the treaty of friendship and cooperation it signed with Iraq. 'Aziz adds that the world is no longer in the hands of the superpowers. We establish our relations with active and advanced forces in the world which do not have the strength to exert political pressure on us. We have benefitted from these forces before and after the war broke out.

Answering a questions on the Iraqi weapons, Tariq 'Aziz says: The arms are a political weapon when they are sold by a state that has the ability of political influence, but we buy them from states that only need the money.

RAMADAN VISITS CSSR; COMMUNIQUE ISSUED 24 APR

For materials on the visit to Czechoslovakia by First Deputy Premier Taha Yasin Ramadan, including his meeting with CSSR officials and the text of the joint communique issued on 24 April, see the Czechoslovakia section of the 22 April Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

PRESIDENT CABLES AFGHAN LEADER ON ANNIVERSARY

JN271301 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1245 GMT 27 Apr 81

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 27 Apr (INA)--President Saddam Husayn has congratulated Afghan President Babrak Karmal on the occasion of the anniversary of the revolution. This came in a cable sent by President Saddam Husayn today to Babrak Karmal, head of the Revolutionary Council in the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

In the cable the president said: We have the pleasure of sending, in my own name and on the behalf of Iraq, our warmest greetings and congratulations to Your Excellency and the Afghan people, wishing you the best of health, happiness and continued progress and prosperity.

MINISTER DISCUSSES OIL COOPERATION WITH ROMANIANS

JN271222 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT 27 Apr 81

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Apr (INA)--Tayih 'Abd al-Karim, Revolution Command Council member and oil minister, received here today Mr (Masu), director general of economic relations with Arab and African countries in the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Trade and International Economic Cooperation. During the meeting 'Abd al-Karim received a written message from Cornel Burtica, Romanian deputy prime minister and minister of foreign trade and international economic cooperation, dealing with bilateral relations, particularly in the field of oil, and the progress of implementation of agreements signed between the two countries.

Oil relations between Iraq and Romania and ways to develop them were discussed at the meeting. Increasing the contribution of Romanian establishments to the implementation of oil projects in Iraq to serve the interests of the two friendly peoples was also discussed.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUE 319

JN271753 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1705 GMT 27 Apr 81

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Apr (INA)--The Iraqi Armed Forces have dealt severe blows to the Iranian regime's forces in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab area, inflicting grave losses during the battles, which are still raging. Communique No 319 issued this evening by the Armed Forces General Command said that Iraqi fighter planes carried out seven successful air raids today on various areas of the battlefields. The following is the text of the communique:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Confidently and with high morale, our valiant armed forces continued to strike at the ignorant Persian enemy in the various sectors. The following is the outcome of the activities yesterday evening and today:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. Our valiant units continued to strongly strike at the Magian Persian enemy in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab area, inflicting grave losses in life. The violent battles were still raging when this communique was prepared. The enemy also sustained the following losses in the same area: one infantry position, two tanks, one armored troop carrier, three vehicles and four stockpiles of hardware were destroyed.
B. Four were killed and one observation post and one stockpile of hardware were destroyed in the Gilan-e Gharb area.
C. One vehicle, one observation post and one stockpile of hardware were destroyed in the Mimak area opposite our positions in Sayf Sa'd.
D. Ten were killed and three stockpiles of hardware were destroyed in the Mehran area.
E. One of our patrols found the bodies of 10 enemy troops who were killed during previous battles in the Dezful area. These were buried in accordance with Islamic tradition in the same area.
F. Six were killed in the Shush area.
G. Using their various weapons, our units pounded enemy concentrations in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] area, forcing them to flee after sustaining 21 dead. Two guns and one vehicle were destroyed in the Ahvaz area.
H. Our forward units pounded enemy positions and troop concentrations in the Abadan area, inflicing the following losses: 22 dead and 1 gun, 2 vehicles, 1 observation post and 2 stockpiles of hardware destroyed. An enemy helicopter was downed in the same area.

Thus, total known enemy losses are 73 dead, 1 infantry position, 2 tanks, 1 armored troop carrier, 3 guns, 7 vehicles, 3 observation posts, 11 stockpiles of hardware and 1 helicopter.

II. Our air force planes carried out seven raids on enemy military targets today, as follows:

A. They carried out two raids on enemy personnel and vehicle concentrations in the Nowsud area, scoring direct hits. Our planes returned safely to base.
B. They carried out three raids on enemy personnel, vehicles and armored cars in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab area, scoring direct hits. Our planes returned safely to base.
C. They carried out two raids on enemy targets in the Ahvaz area, scoring direct hits. Our planes returned safely to base.

III. Our losses:

A. In personnel: Nine martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: One vehicle, one mortar, one gun and two rocket launchers were damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 27 April 1981

MEDITERRANEAN-DEAD SEA CANAL PLAN CONDEMNED

JN242025 Doha QNA in Arabic 1910 GMT 24 Apr 81

[Text] Amman, 24 Apr (QNA)--A Jordanian official has declared that the Israeli plan to dig a canal between the Mediterranean and Dead Seas has grave military and security indications. Brig Gen Fayiz Jabir, an expert in military affairs and the secretary general of the Royal Committee for Jerusalem Affairs, said that Israel aims to isolate an area densely populated by Arabs in Gaza from the rest of the Palestinian people in central and northern Palestine. He pointed out that this population density will amount to 1.5 million by the end of this decade. This will have a clear influence on any future plan to liberate the occupied homeland, he added.

In a statement to QNA Brigadier General Jabir stressed that this canal would be a good means to separate southern Palestine from northern Palestine. It would also prevent any direct and quick contact between the Arab citizens to launch any liberation or political movement. He added that this canal would flood Gaza and the northern Sinai with water from the Mediterranean. This, he said, would hamper the movement of armored cars and vehicles.

The Jordanian official explained that this Israeli-planned canal would be a wide moat to strengthen various Israeli fortifications against any possible Arab invasion from the south and against the movements of the Palestinian resistance fighters. He said that Israel would build nuclear stations in the Negev region and that this would be an important factor in Israeli strength in any war we fight with Israel in the future.

He pointed out the possibility that Israel might develop this canal to become an international waterway which competes with the Suez Canal in importance. The canal will then be of tremendous military and economic influence and a good water barrier as well.

He concluded by saying that reports filtering in from the occupied lands say that Israel will carry out a wide and intensive political campaign linking this project with a general plan Israel will submit on political and economic cooperation among the states of the region. This deceptive campaign is one of the political justifications Israel intends to submit in order to implement this dangerous project.

U.S. ADMINISTRATION'S AWACS DECISION WELCOMED

JN240849 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 23 Apr 81 p 4

[Editorial: "A New Wrinkle?"]

[Text] The Reagan administration's decision to sell Saudi Arabia five Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) planes and additional equipment for 62 F-15 fighter-bombers already on order can be seen as a sign of strength by the new American leadership. But many things could happen between now and when the sale of the arms package is approved or rejected by the American Congress, and the real test of the Reagan administration's determination and or ability to forge a new American policy in the Middle East is yet to come. We see the AWACS and F-15 decision as a sign of strength because it has been made in the face of strong, vocal and at times impertinent opposition by Israel and its hirelings in the United States. This has reached the point where there is even thought that the strategy to reverse the sale decision might involve an assault on the Reagan domestic economic package. The American people themselves will have to decide whether they want their foreign and [previous word printed in italics] domestic policies held accountable to Israel's generals. [paragraph continues]

It is bad enough that the Reagan administration is selling Saudi Arabia the equipment it wants for its legitimate self-defence only on the basis of compensatory financial and military aid to Israel. But nevertheless, approving the AWACS and F-15 package is a small new wrinkle in the old pattern of America's non-policy in the Arab world. Is it an indication that Washington may be able to make policy decision based on the self-evident merits of Arab facts and priorities? How nice that would be for the Arabs. And for Washington.

AD-DUSTUR REPUDIATES SYRIAN PRESIDENT'S SPEECH

JN280754 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 28 Apr 81

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Exposed False Concern and the True Conspiracy," the newspaper AD-DUSTUR says: In addition to its falsifications and deception the most prominent characteristic in President Hafiz al-Asad's speech was that it was a model of scorn and disdain of the awareness and reason of the Arabs and of their ability to assess matters and realize the truth of what is happening in the Arab arena and inside every Arab country. This disdain of the Arab masses' awareness drove him to try to conceal his spite against Jordan and his plotting against the soundness of its pan-Arab stand by shedding false tears about the interests of the Jordanian people, the deprivation of their freedom and democracy and similar other slogans raised by the Damascus rulers.

The freedom and democracy about which President al-Asad shed false tears, claiming that the Jordanian people are deprived of them, are realities in Jordan practiced on all levels. We in this country have transcended the stage of being tricked with glittering slogans. The practical exercise of mature freedom and constructive democracy is our way of life and the foundation of the rule which is based on cohesion between the leadership and the base. This is a fact confirmed by the secure and stable life enjoyed by our citizens, remote from the torture, terrorism and killing which is the way of life and the method of rule in Al-Asad's Syria.

AD-DUSTUR adds: It seems that President al-Asad has forgotten or pretends to have forgotten that he was one of the first admirers and lauders of the Jordanian people's awareness, faithfulness and cohesion in their united march and in building a better future for their country and nation. The Jordanian people have not changed. They will remain faithful to their country and the leader of their march and will continue to back and support their armed forces, regardless of what the rulers of Damascus and others say. Every citizen in this country maturely and sincerely knows what is happening in the region. At the same time he is ready to perform his role without hesitation in Jordan's shouldering of its pan-Arab responsibility of repulsing all conspiracies, defeating any aggression and confronting all challenges.

We in this country are one people with no factions or classes. Workers, peasants, employees and students are all united in love, brotherhood and cohesion without needing to incite one faction against another. This will defeat the Syrian regime's attempts at exporting its false slogans which have become the rulers' prop to peddle their terrorist schemes by dividing the Syrian people's unity and fragmenting them to factions and classes that have conflicting objectives and interests, thus facilitating the rulers' lust for power and subjugation and the realization of their personal interests at the expense of the downtrodden masses.

SYRIA'S KHADDAM ARRIVES, MEETS WITH SARKIS

JN281223 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 28 Apr 81

[Text] Beirut--Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis received today 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus and Col Sami al-Khatib, commander of the Arab Deterrent Forces. Mr Khaddam arrived in Beirut this morning to hold talks with Lebanese officials on the latest developments in the Lebanese arena.

AL-WAZZAN MAKES STATEMENT ON CURRENT EVENTS

Khaddam Visit, Airport

NC280920 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Apr 81

[Text] At 1230 today his excellency the president held a meeting with Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan in the presence of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates Minister Fu'ad Butrus. A comprehensive evaluation was made of the results of Minister Butrus' talks in Damascus with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

After the meeting, which ended at 1330, Prime Minister al-Wazzan left the presidential palace and he had the following dialogue with the press.

[Question] Minister Butrus foretold good tidings and practical measures yesterday upon his return from the Damascus talks; can you tell us more about this and the measures to be implemented?

[Answer] There is not much that I have to say in this regard. You yourself have used the expression that Minister Butrus has foretold good tidings. I want you to keep those words in mind and hope that the discussions scheduled for tomorrow will truly bring good tidings. In fact, we do not want to be overoptimistic or belittle any optimism. We are hopeful and we are seeking to realize these hopes to attain what all the Lebanese want--security and detente.

[Question] Has the final date of Minister Khaddam's visit to Beirut been fixed?

[Answer] This date has been initially fixed for tomorrow. We shall have the final date today.

[Question] It has been learned that Minister Khaddam will carry out contacts with Lebanese parties here for the sake of starting a national dialogue. Have these parties been determined?

[Answer] Everything will become clear tomorrow. The best thing is to wait until tomorrow. All of us are waiting for tomorrow.

[Question] This morning you met with As'ad Nasr, the chairman of the board of directors of Middle East Airlines [MEA] and naturally the discussion dealt with the reopening of Beirut International Airport.

[Answer] In fact, I met with As'ad Nasr and Salim Salam who are senior MEA company officials. To talk about the reopening of Beirut International Airport is to talk about the Lebanese interest in the widest sense of the word. All of us had the same understanding that speedy efforts must be made to bring about the reopening of Beirut airport as soon as possible in view of the great harm that is caused to citizens, companies and the country's higher interest. We hope also, particularly after discussing this topic with President Sarkis today, that our request for the reopening of the airport will be met soon.

Appeal for 'Breathing Space'

NC272007 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Apr 81

[27 April statement by Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan on current security situation in Lebanon--read by announcer]

[Text] On the eve of the anticipated meetings--which the Lebanese hope will produce good results--we are surprised by this deterioration in the situation and the indiscriminate shelling of the residential quarters. We request everyone to rise to the level of their national and humanitarian responsibilities and to give the citizens breathing space so they may feel reassured after this series of tragedies they have been living through.

Today as the legitimate authority continues its activities by holding new contacts, which the people hope will bear fruit, it is the national duty of everyone to give this legitimate authority the opportunity to work quietly and serenely in order to achieve the aspirations of all the Lebanese for relaxation and the start of a march toward the cherished accord.

Israeli Raid

NC271335 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 27 Apr 81

[Text] Commenting on the Israeli raid against Sidon and other areas, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan said: Our heart is filled with pain for the recurrent tragedies that are befalling Lebanon and in which the Israeli enemy is continuing its direct attacks on the south, the capital of the south, Sidon and Sidon's residential quarters and its neighboring areas which are inhabited by peaceful citizens. Prime Minister al-Wazzan added: We have said and say again that Israel is the cause of calamities, that all attention must be focused against it and that all the Arabs must participate in resisting it through a unified Arab strategy. Our voice has become hoarse calling for this strategy. We cannot but praise the Syrian Air Force's resistance against the Zionist enemy's planes, proving to the world that Syria is the real symbol of Arab resistance against Israel.

SKAF CALLS ON WORLD TO STOP TRAGEDY IN SOUTH

NC271436 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 27 Apr 81

[Text] Today Defense Minister Joseph Skaf's attention centered on the situation in the south in the wake of yesterday's Israeli aggression and the security situation in Zahlah and Beirut. Minister Skaf held a number of contacts with the competent military leaders and acquainted himself with the situation in the south and with the available information on the security situation in Zahlah and Beirut. Minister Skaf also met with Ministers Ilyas al-Hirawi and Joseph Abu Khatir as well as with some Zahlah officials.

Commenting on the Israeli aggression, the defense minister said: It is very painful to see that Israel daily attacks the southern villages and violates Lebanese sovereignty, at times directly and at other times through its agents in the south, while the entire world watches what is taking place without embarking on any measure that would help us stop these Israeli attacks. It appears that the world considers that the tragedy of the south does not deserve the necessary attention. Thus, the states of the world are content only in supporting us by paying lip service to our cause and making expressions of anxiety over our sovereignty, unity and independence--particularly the major powers, which, if they wanted, could put an end to the attacks.

The defense minister added: On the basis of the world's knowledge that the situation in the south is an Arab and international responsibility, we repeat our call to the world to assume its responsibilities and to help bring an end to the tragedy, because the Lebanese person rejects the allegations of the states that claim to be civilized and to respect the human being as long as these states are content watching the bleeding in the south without doing their duty.

FORMER PRESIDENT RECEIVES SYRIAN ENVOY 27 APR

NC271728 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 27 Apr 81

[Text] In Zgharta this morning [former] President Franjiyah discussed with Syrian President al-Asad's personal envoy, Brig Gen Muhammad al-Khuli, the general situation in the country in light of the latest developments. The 2-hour meeting was attended by Robert Franjiyah, and Deputy ('Abdallah ar-Rasi) attended part of the meeting.

After the meeting, Brigadier General al-Khuli was asked: Do you believe that the government will take the initiative this time after Minister Fu'ad Butrus' visit to Damascus and 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam's anticipated visit to Beirut tomorrow? He answered: I hope so but I cannot judge now.

On the question of internationalization, Brigadier General al-Khuli said: Internationalization is against the interest of Lebanon and all the Arabs; we in Syria are completely against this idea.

CEASE-FIRE REPORTEDLY AGREED UPON IN BEIRUT

NC272021 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 27 Apr 81

[Text] A short while ago, security sources stated that the intensity of the artillery fire exchanged between the eastern and western areas and of the clashes on the contact lines and in the commercial sector has lessened following the positive contacts which were held by the commands concerned. In the course of these contacts, an agreement on a cease-fire--to go into effect at 1900 today--was reached. However, this agreement was violated by some quarters. It was then to be implemented beginning at 2100 today. Meanwhile, the sound of scattered gunfire is still being heard in the commercial sector and on the contact lines.

CLASHES, SYRIAN LANDING OF FORCES REPORTED

NC272052 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 27 Apr 81

[Text] Beirut, which witnessed shelling throughout the afternoon until early this evening, is now passing through a phase of intermittent shelling and continuing clashes all along the contact lines. In the course of this shelling, two rounds fell at 2015 on the Greek Orthodox hospital; 4 rounds had fallen on this hospital this afternoon.

Something new to report is also a Syrian landing in the upper area of 'Uyun as-Siman and in the (Rami al-Waraq) locality by means of helicopters. The Syrian helicopters made several landings and Syrian elements clashed with the elements of the Lebanese Army with light and medium weapons.

However, Zahlah is still under intermittent shelling. The army fire brigade in Ablah has been unable to reach the (Zirwan) building, which is now on fire following sniper fire. Agreement had been reached to allow the army fire brigade to reach the scene of the fire.

BEIRUT REPORTS 27 APR ISRAELI AIR RAID ON SIDON

NC271851 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Apr 81

[Text] From 1650 to 1755 today, Israeli enemy warplanes raided areas around Sidon. The raiding planes, which were protected by squadrons of planes at a very high altitude, were confronted by intensive antiaircraft fire from missiles and various caliber guns. The national news agency correspondent in Sidon said that the raids included the areas of 'Alman and al-Hbabiyah, the areas between Al-Miyah Wa al-Miyah, (Sirup), Al-Bramiyah and Al-Wadi al-Akhbar in the An-Nabatiyah area, and Burj ash-Shamali and Al-Hammadiyah near Tyre. According to initial information about 20 persons were injured. Moreover, Israeli units fired surface-to-surface missiles at the An-Nabatiyah township; nothing is yet known about any damage.

ISRAELI PHANTOMS DOWN SYRIAN HELICOPTER 28 APR

NC281244 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 28 Apr 81

[Text] While Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam was on his way to E'abda Palace, two Israeli Phantoms at 1215 intercepted a Syrian helicopter in the Hawsh al-Ghanam area, near Riyaq military base, and downed it with an air-to-air missile. The Syrian helicopter was of the ME-8 class and was transporting food to some Syrian elements.

BA'TH PARTY PROMISES 'CONFRONTATION' IN LEBANON

JN251005 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 25 Apr 81

[Excerpts] Beirut, 25 Apr (INA)--The Ba'th Party Regional Command in Lebanon has asserted that the party's confrontation of forces in the Lebanese arena that are hostile to the Arab nation's aspirations for liberation proceeds from its sense of responsibility, which it is maintaining with honesty and honor. In a statement last night, the Lebanese regional command said: Our confrontation of the hostile forces, irrespective of the masks they are hiding behind, will be total. It warned those who are playing in the game of blood against the party, saying that this will cost them dearly.

Reviewing events in Lebanon in the past 2 days, the statement said: The dimensions of the suspect role being played by the new Shu'ubist cliques have been exposed, dropping the fig leaf behind which they have been hiding for a long time by falsely claiming to play a patriotic role in the Lebanese arena. The statement explained that from the beginning, it was clear that the Amal Movement's role was in harmony with the other suspect roles being played in the Lebanese arena against the Lebanese nationalist presence and the Palestinian revolution.

The party statement asserted that the anti-Arab spite that was vented on the Beirut newspaper offices was not aimed against an advanced nationalist position as much as it was aimed at getting closer to the Palestinian camps in order to complete what the Zionist enemy is undertaking.

The Ba'th Party Regional Command in Lebanon announced to the Lebanese masses and the Arab nation the martyrdom of hero strugglers Walid Dhiyab, 'Ali Bakri at-Tahman, Fa'ud Rahhal, Zuhayr 'Azzam, Muhammad Hasan Ibrahim, 'Adil Mugharbal, 'Ali Faqih, 'Abdallah Haydar, Fahd 'Izz ad-Din and Husayn Muhammad al-'Abbud, who were martyred on 22 April at the hands of the agents of Zionism and the agents of the suspect Shu'ubist sectarian spite, the Amal gangs, while defending the values of nobility, Arabism and patriotism.

UNQUALIFIED OBJECTION TO ARMS DEAL EXPRESSED

TA280544 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 28 Apr 81

[Text] Israel has again expressed unqualified objection to the U.S.-Saudi arms deal. Our political correspondent has said that the prime minister's office again issued an announcement on this matter in view of reports that Israel had moderated its opposition to the deal. Israel continues to demand the complete cancellation of the deal, says the announcement, adding that the points of agreement between the Washington administration and the Israeli Government cannot in any way detract from Israel's objection to the supply of offensive arms to Saudi Arabia.

BEGIN ADDRESSES CABINET ON AWACS ISSUE 26 APR

TA271344 Tel Aviv Ha'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Apr 81 p 1

[By 'Uzi Benziman]

[Text] Prime Minister Begin yesterday advised the Cabinet to examine the Reagan administration's readiness to supply AWACS planes to Saudi Arabia against the background of Reagan's generally sympathetic attitude toward Israel.

In the Cabinet meeting Mr Begin said Israel should continue to try to convince the U.S. administration to refrain from implementing the deal with Saudi Arabia but there is no reason to cause a confrontation with it on this issue. Begin mentioned the U.S. administration's positive attitude toward Israel, citing several examples: the U.S. administration's refrain from criticizing settlement activity, its rejection of the establishment of a Palestinian state, its condemnation of the PLO, its negative public assessments on the role Syria is playing in the Middle East and so on. The prime minister stated that the dispute between Israel and the United States on the AWACS issue is a dispute "between friends" and so it should remain.

Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir mentioned the Israeli-U.S. contacts on the arms deal issue, noting that Israel should continue its information campaign against the supply of intelligence planes to Saudi Arabia.

Deputy Prime Minister Yiga'el Yadin said that there is a contradiction in the U.S. administration's approach: on the one hand it recommends that Israel not fear the sale of the AWACS planes, explaining that they will be flown by U.S. pilots, while, on the other hand, the U.S. administration mentions Israel's ability to intercept these aircraft. "Is the U.S. administration suggesting that we shoot down U.S. pilots?" Yadin asked.

In the discussion following the review of the situation an opinion was expressed that a confrontation should not take place with the U.S. administration on this matter since there are important elements within the United States who are opposed to the deal out of concern for the transfer of advanced technology to a regime whose stability is doubtful. At the end of the debate the Cabinet agreed on a line whereby it approved the action taken by Israel on this issue so far.

ARIDOR TO ASK U.S. FOR $700 MILLION GRANT

TA271650 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 27 Apr 81

[Text] Israel is asking the United States to increase the grant component in the U.S. military assistance and to put it at $700 million rather than at $500 million decided by the administration. This request is to be raised by Finance Minister Yoram Aridor, who is leaving tomorrow on a visit to the United States. Aridor will also attempt to improve the terms of the loan Israel is receiving in military and economic assistance and facilitate an increase of the Israeli exports to the United States.

STATEMENT RELEASED ON SYRIAN MOVES IN LEBANON

TA281113 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 28 Apr 81

[Text] The government released a statement a few minutes ago in which it reiterated that it cannot reconcile itself with the attempt by the Syrians to seize control over Lebanon and liquidate the Christians of that country. The Cabinet secretary said the statement was released following consultation between the ministers.

'EVRON, VELIOTES DISCUSS LEBANON SITUATION

TA271641 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 27 Apr 81

[Text] U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Nicholas Veliotes and Israeli Ambassador Efraim 'Evron about an hour ago concluded a meeting in which the Lebanon situation was discussed. Rafi Mann has telephoned this report from the State Department in Washington:

[Begin recording] [Mann] Ambassador 'Evron delivered a message to the assistant secretary of state from the prime minister addressed to Secretary Haig. This message, dealing with Israel's concern about the continuing fighting in Lebanon, was, 'Evron said, in answer to a previous message by Secretary of State Alexander Haig.

['Evron] We exchanged evaluations and information on what is happening in Lebanon today. Also according to the State Department's evaluations the situation there is very serious. There is extensive American political activity and the assessment is that the situation is most serious.

[Mann] 'Evron would not give details of the U.S. activity--extensive and urgent activity, according to him. He adds, however: I was unaware of differences of opinion between us and the U.S. administration regarding the goal we are all seeking. In the course of the meeting 'Evron also delivered an official Israeli protest to Saudi Oil Minister Ahmad Zaqi Yamani's recent statement during his visit in the United States.

['Evron] I remarked that the statement does not conform to the accepted framework of statements made by visitors or diplomatic representatives. It is a statement containing provocations against Israel and leveling offense at a state that is deemed by the United States to be an ally. I asked the assistant secretary of state to bring this to the attention of the secretary of state, to reprove Shaykh Yamani and make him desist from such statements.

[Mann] The Israeli protest will be examined, Veliotes told 'Evron, and it will be brought to the attention of the secretary of state. [end recording]

AIR FORCE ATTACKS 'TERRORIST' TARGETS 27 APR

TA271607 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1603 GMT 27 Apr 81

[Text] The IDF spokesman has just announced that at about 1700 Israeli Air Force planes attacked concentrations of terrorists, tanks and vehicles belonging to the terrorists in the areas of Tyre, Sidon and the An-Nabatiyah plateau. The targets attacked are located in a deserted and unpopulated area and belong to Fatah, PFLP-General Command and George Habash's Popular Front. All our planes returned safely to their bases. Our pilots reported accurate hits on the predetermined targets. Our military correspondent notes that the Syrian Air Force made no attempt to interfere in the course of the raid.

Targets Identified

TA271607 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 27 Apr 81

[By military correspondent Shim'on Ayalon]

[Excerpt] The military command here identified the targets [hit by IDF planes 27 April] as (Miya Zamiya), a mile from Sidon on the coast where Fatah has vehicle maintenance workshops; Wadi al-Akhbar, a mile from An-Nabatiyah to the east, where the Ahmad Jibril terrorist group, the PFLP, has rocket launchers and antiaircraft installations; Hammadiyah, some 2 miles northeast of Tyre; and Al-Hilaliyah, the base hit yesterday, which contains tanks and tank transporters.

IDF DOWNS SYRIAN HELICOPTER OVER LEBANON 28 APR

TA281222 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1215 GMT 28 Apr 81

[Text] And this is just in: The IDF spokesman has confirmed the shooting down of a Syrian helicopter over central Lebanon. The spokesman stressed that the Syrian helicopters are carrying out missions to murder Christians in the Mt Lebanon region.

SYRIAN MILITARY OBJECTIVES IN LEBANON EVALUATED

TA280815 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 28 Apr 81

[Text] In view of the stepped up Syrian pressure on Lebanon, Israeli sources have estimated that the Syrians are currently concentrating on an attempt to realize their control over those settlements where they already have a footing in Lebanon. At the same time, the Syrians are not taking action to annex Lebanon and will be satisfied with a recognition of their presence in the region and with having control over the traffic arteries and the strategic junctions. Military correspondent Shmu'el Tal sums up the evaluations [in Israel] of the situation in Lebanon:

[Begin recording] The Christians in the strongholds in the Sannin hills are still hanging on. Even though they have been forced to evacuate a central post, they are nevertheless deeply entrenched in the adjacent hilltop positions and Syrian commandos are not scoring many successes there. The evaluation of the [Israeli] sources is that the Syrians will have to introduce very large forces and many arms and auxiliary units into the area if they wish to capture the hilltop posts. It is not clear, however, whether or not they are interested in this at this point, or if they are capable of doing so. If so far the Syrian policy was to exhaust Zahlah and wait for it to fall by itself, now this policy has changed and efforts in recent days indicate a desire to break into the city, take over positions in it and clear the Beirut-Damascus axis, but only after the Sannin hills posts, which overlook the Lebanon valley and through which it is still possible to reach the city from the direction of the coast, have fallen.

The Syrians have reinforced themselves by commando troops brought in from the north of the country [Lebanon] and introduced Gazelle helicopter gunships, equipped with antitank missiles. However, the Christians have shown an extraordinary fighting capability and real opposition. They are entrenched, well-supplied and receive replenishments to make it possible for them to fight for their lives. The evaluation is that if they fight skillfully the Syrians will not be able to score real achievements in the hilly strongholds.

Our source said that the Syrians are striving toward turning the Lebanon valley into a strategic buffer between Syria and Israel.

But the Syrians have not thrown their entire military force into the battlefront, at least not at this stage of the fighting, and it is doubtful whether they would do so because they are encountering difficulties in the northern part of the country and because of the danger that they might have to expose the remainder of their fronts.

This analysis, therefore, indicates that the Syrian move does not necessarily herald a change in the balance and deployment of forces in Lebanon and that this is not something that compels Israel to take steps that might lead to a confrontation, in which neither party is interested at this moment. [end recording]

IDF ALLOWS UNIFIL TO RESUPPLY THROUGH AIRPORT

TA232024 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 23 Apr 81

[Text] A new era in the IDF-UNIFIL relations has begun. In the last few days the IDF has begun to allow UNIFIL to receive regular supply through Ben-Gurion Airport. The IDF is also taking action to make possible contact between the various UNIFIL units and their home countries.

Correspondent Dan Semama reported that following a long period during which the Israeli authorities did not permit UNIFIL to receive supply through Israel, yesterday and today Hercules aircraft from Sweden, Ireland and Norway landed at Ben-Gurion Airport. They brought supplies and soldiers.

DAYAN SAYS U.S. SHOULD CLARIFY ITS POSITION

TA271229 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 27 Apr 81 p 5

[Text] "One should demand that the United States clarify what stands behind its declarations that it is responsible for Israel's security. We should know to what an extent it can be relied upon." MK Moshe Dayan said this is a Telem rally held in Ramat Gan yesterday.

Regarding the U.S. arms flowing into Arab countries, Dayan said that this process runs counter to the peace tendencies of Camp David. In his opinion, Israel should fight against this, with diplomatic means, at this stage. At the same time one should prepare for the possibility that the Arabs will receive a lot of arms despite these efforts.

In his remarks, Dayan raised grave doubts regarding a possible dialogue with countries such as Morocco or Saudi Arabia. He said: "Lately the Alignment leadership has held contacts with Moroccan representatives and now the 'socialist' King Hassan is demanding that the Socialist International remove the Labor Party from its ranks."

About 300 new members, including Druze and Arabs, participated in the rally.

MK Zalman Shoval, who opened the rally, said that to date about 4,000 volunteer activists have joined Telem.

SENIOR OFFICERS FORBIDDEN TO GIVE INTERVIEWS

TA271211 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Apr 81 p 2

[By military correspondent]

[Text] The defense minister's office has renewed instructions forbidding senior officers to grant interviews to the press and to appear at public events open to the press. The instruction was issued following an interview given by the commander of the northern command, Maj Gen Avigdor Ben-Gal, to DAVAR on the eve of the Passover holiday. The contents of this interview as well as censored passages were subject to criticism in the Cabinet meeting last week. Several ministers leveled criticism at the fact that the major general publicly discussed political issues. Prime Minister and Defense Minister Begin joined the criticism, dwelling mainly on Avigdor Ben-Gal's censored remarks.

It was reported that the content of the interview was also a subject raised in a talk between Prime Minister Begin and U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis.

SHARON RAISES ISSUE OF SOVIET-BACKED TERRORISM

TA280538 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 28 Apr 81

[Text] Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon said that in his talks with South American leaders he raised the issue of the threat inherent in international terrorism and the Soviet Union's support of that terrorism.

He claimed that he had heard similar views by his hosts, among them the president of Peru and its foreign minister.

Minister Sharon was speaking last night at Ben-Gurion Airport with correspondent Dan Eshel upon his return from a tour of Latin America and South Africa.

He said he intends to meet with the prime minister to discuss the decision not to incorporate Shmu'el Tamir into the Likud. Minister Sharon was one of the supporters of allowing Tamir to rejoin the Likud.

MINISTRY RECEIVES EGYPT'S APPROVAL OF ENVOY

TA241917 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 24 Apr 81

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has received Egypt's official approval of Israel's second ambassador to Cairo. Ambassador Moshe Sasson is expected to take up his post in May, following the resignation of Eliyahu Ben-Elisar 2 months ago.

BEGIN COMMENTS ON LIKUD'S CHANCES IN ELECTIONS

TA241541 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 24 Apr 81 pp 1, 3

[By Arye Avneri]

[Text] "In my recent meetings with U.S. elements I noticed a change in their views. These elements take a cautious view regarding the next government and they certainly take into account the possibility that the Likud will form it." Prime Minister Menahem Begin said this the day before yesterday in a closed meeting held in his office with the Histadrut Likud faction leaders.

Ministers David Levi and Yoram Aridor participated in the meeting. In the meeting, Prime Minister Begin told the Histadrut Likud representatives: "You induced a good mood and a change in the general atmosphere among the public toward the Likud. You have thus increased the chances of victory in the Knesset elections."

Begin further said that the results of the Histadrut elections constitute a considerable achievement for the Likud since these elections were advanced by the Alignment, which thus clearly wanted to defeat the Likud but did not succeed in doing so.

Begin expressed satisfaction mainly with the fact that the Likud scored impressive achievements in low-income neighborhoods and among the middle social strata. He thanked Minister David Levi, lauding him for the way he conducted the Histadrut election campaign.

Minister David Levi thanked Begin for his encouraging remarks and promised to do everything he can so that the Knesset election results will be similarly encouraging. "I will do my best to have the Likud remain in power," he said. (Levi was this week appointed as the executive head of the Knesset elections headquarters.)

At the end of the meeting the participants noted that the close cooperation between Ministers David Levi and Yoram Aridor will also find expression in the operations of the elections headquarters. Aridor, Levi and headquarters chairman Yitzhaq Shamir form a permanent team which directs the operations of the Likud's elections headquarters.

TEHIYYA PARTY DECIDES ON KNESSET CANDIDATES

TA230733 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 23 Apr 81

[Text] The right-wing Tehiyya Party has decided on its Knesset elections list. At the top is the chairman of the party, Prof Yuval Ne'eman. Next is Knesset member Ge'ula Kohen. The party's other Knesset member, Moshe Shamir, appears only in 16th place, according to his request. This means that Shamir has little chance of being elected to the next Knesset. At the party meeting, Tehiyya also proposed removing the right to vote in Knesset elections from anyone who has not served in the army or done national service.

MAPAM ELECTS CANDIDATES FOR ALIGNMENT LIST

TA271833 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 27 Apr 81

[Text] MAPAM today elected its 12 candidates for the Alignment list. They do not include three members of the outgoing Knesset: Me'ir Talmi, Moshe 'Amar and Haya Grossman. Mrs Grossman was promised a ministerial portfolio if the Alignment rises to power. Me'ir Talmi is returning to his kibbutz because he decided to withdraw from politics. Moshe 'Amar did not muster sufficient support among MAPAM's institutions. The 12 candidates elected today include: Ya'ir Tzaban, a former SHELI leader who joined MAPAM as well as Muhammad (Watad) and ('Abd Qadur).

JERUSALEM REPORTS ON FIGHTING IN SYRIAN CITIES

TA270619 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 27 Apr 81

[Text] There were bloody clashes last night in Syria between security forces and members of the Muslim Brotherhood underground. According to the Voice of Lebanon, the Syrian security forces sustained many casualties. The disturbances occurred in Damascus, Aleppo, Hims and Hamah.

Our monitor, Mikha'el Gurdus, reports that the most severe disturbances have been going on for the past 4 days in Hamah, in northern Syria, where dozens have been killed. Syrian commando units are besieging the city, which has also come under shelling from the Syrian Army.

Arab affairs correspondent Aharon Barne'a adds that at the end of last week the Syrian security forces carried out unprecedented punitive measures against civilian population groups.

Our correspondent says that the intensified activity by the Muslim underground against the Damascus regime stems from the departure of the commando battalions--which had until now maintained security in Syria--to take part in the fighting against the Christians in Lebanon.

LIBYA

'ARAFAT, OTHERS VISIT, MEET WITH AL-QADHDHAFI

LD261326 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 26 Apr 81

[Text] The brother commander of the revolution today received brother PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in the presence of brother Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf]. The brother commander also received Brothers Muhsin Ibrahim, the secretary general of the Communist Action Organization, and George Hawi, the secretary general of the Lebanese Communist Party.

Brother 'Arafat arrived in Tripoli this morning on a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. In a statement to a JANA correspondent, 'Arafat denounced the imperialist-reactionary plan which is being implemented in the Arab region. He pointed out that the developments in Lebanon are part of that plan.

Brother 'Arafat said that his visit to the Jamahiriyah is taking place under conditions of an intensified Zionist-reactionary offensive against the Arab nation. Imperialism has begun to cordon off the Arab homeland with a series of military bases in Sudan, Oman and the Red Sea. Brother Abu Iyad came with Brother 'Arafat. They were on the same plane as brothers Muhsin Ibrahim and George Hawi.

26 Apr Departure

LD271554 Tripoli JANA in English 1443 GMT 27 Apr 81

[Text] Tripoli, 27 Apr (JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY)--Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the P.L.O. Executive Committee, left Tripoli yesterday after a short visit to the Jamahiriyah. Mr. Salah Khalaf, member of the Fatah Central Committee, Mr. Muhsin Ibrahim, secretary general of the Lebanese Communist Working Organization, and Mr. George Hawi, secretary general of the Lebanese Communist Party, have also left Tripoli yesterday on the same aeroplane.

OFFICIALS MEET WITH VISITING HUNGARIAN MINISTER

General Committee Secretary

LD252124 Tripoli JANA in English 1558 GMT 25 Apr 81

[Text] Tripoli, 25 Apr (JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY)--The secretary of the General People's Committee met the Hungarian defence minister who is currently visiting the Jamahiriyah. During the meeting the Hungarian minister commended the agricultural revival in the Jamahiriyah. He said: 'The projects I have seen here confirm the Jamahiriyah's intention to reclaim desert land so that it can achieve self-sufficiency in foodstuffs.' The Hungarian minister spoke also of the fruitful results achieved by Libyan-Hungarian cooperation.

Jabir Meeting

LD271654 Tripoli JANA in English 1416 GMT 27 Apr 81

[Text] Tripoli, 27 Apr (JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY)--Brigadier Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, yesterday received General Lajos Czinege, Hungarian minister of defence, currently visiting the Jamahiriyah. The meeting discussed the means of promoting the relations between the Libyan Arab and Hungarian peoples.

REPORT OF EXPULSION CAMPAIGN IN SUDAN CITED

LD281012 Tripoli JANA in English 0805 GMT 28 Apr 81

[Text] Khartoum, 28 Apr (JANA)--According to yesterday's issue of the Kuwaiti newspaper AS-SIYASAH, President Numayri has expelled no less than 1400 high ranking officials from both the civil and military sectors.

The expulsion order was not announced publicly on the media but each person was notified separately for fear of a popular reprisal. The expulsion order has affected railway employees, the civil service, doctors, teachers, police and customs officials.

No reason has been given why the order was taken. However, the paper did not rule out the possibility that Sudanese intelligence could have been at the core of the campaign in a bid to round up nationalist elements.

JANA RESPONDS TO AFP CRITICISM OF LIBYAN POLICY

LD241254 Tripoli JANA in English 0815 GMT 24 Apr 81

[Text] Tripoli, 24 Apr (JANA)--The French news agency (AFP) has commented on the revolution leader's call for unity between Mauritania and the Saharan Arab Republic and forming an alliance including Libya, Algeria, Mauritania and the Saharan Arab Republic. It said that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi was facing difficulties in realizing his dream of Arab unity and leadership of the Arab region. It added that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi had turned from the stage of aiding Moslems, building mosques for them and establishing radio stations to that of direct interventions.

It went to say the Libya had come to resemble the Tower of Babylon for liberation movements and international terrorism, as Americans and Westerners affirm, and that Al-Qadhdhafi does not hesitate in financing all [words indistinct] international movements struggling against reaction whether in Somalia or Sudan or Europe or Asia. The AFP enumerated the unionist attempts between Jamahiriyah and some Arab countries, and referred to the call for a masses unity between Libya and Chad by saying that despite the failure of previous attempts many African states were not concealing their anxiety toward Libya's policy which could undermine the fragile stability of the African Continent, which was now suffering from civil wars and backwardness.

JANA's correspondent commented on the above, saying: "The AFP's comment completely reflects the venomous French Government's attitude towards the Arab nation, expresses France's hostile imperialist stand towards the Arab nation's unity and entrenches the traditional colonialist understanding which works for keeping the Arab nation divided, weak and torn. It was more befitting for the Giscard d'Estaing government which [words indistinct] France's reputation, spoilt what De Gaulle and Pompidou had done, degraded the French republic and destroyed the French people's relations with the Arab nation and world peoples. It was more befitting for this agency to have warned the French people of reelecting d'Estaing because this would cause a disaster for them, result in a great loss for them and create more unemployment, racial discrimination, strikes, demonstrations and inflation.

"Has it escaped the French news agency notice that the leader's constant call for Arab unity is a call for reverting the situation to its [words indistinct] and taking the Arab nation back to the situation [words indistinct] to imperialist intrigue to which France contributed greatly, or is it still dreaming about the return of French colonialism to Africa and aspiring to reassemble the French empire after it was torn apart by the revolutions of African peoples? Has the AFP forgotten that the Arab nation is one family and that the Jamahiriyah is part of Africa, which does not hold French colonialism with any esteem?

"The image of direct French military intervention is still vivid in the minds of African peoples. Has it forgotten the civil wars it created, and the coups it instigated and the massacres that befell the African peoples at the hands of its [words indistinct] surrogates in Africa?

"The developing countries in Africa and the world know an [word indistinct] who is terrorizing them with his diverse fleets, flexing his muscles to scare them and dominate them, creating conflicts and civil wars, plundering the resources, training and arming the rebels, and undermining security and stability in Africa.

"The AFP knows full well that the Jamahiriyah stands with the weak and gives them all assistance for the victory of freedom, the final elimination of colonialism and dismantlement of the bases of shame and destruction from Africa and the Arab homeland. Thus, there is a wide gap between those who terrorize the peoples and exploit them and those who support freedom and fight to affirm people's authority.

"To those who lit their candles in the light of day we say what harm could come to the sun if the blind could not see it?"

TUNISIA

PRIME MINISTER MEETS WITH PLO OFFICIALS 25 APR

LD260952 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 26 Apr 81

[Text] Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali yesterday met with deputy commander in chief of the Palestine revolution forces [title as heard] Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] and member of the Fatah Central Committee and director of central operations of the Palestine revolution [title as heard] Abu Walid. The two men acquainted the prime minister with developments in the Palestine question, the continued Zionist threats to and aggressions against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples in southern Lebanon and the steps that should be taken to deal with these repeated Zionist aggressions.

TUNISIA, OMAN AGREE TO ESTABLISH AIR, SEA LINKS

NC272139 Paris AFP in English 2120 GMT 27 Apr 81

[Text] Tunis, 27 Apr (AFP)--Oman and Tunisia decided to set up air and sea links between the two countries under the terms of a protocol signed here today. The agreement also concerned cooperation in port services and exchanges of know-how in the two states' shipping companies and in road-making. Other cooperation will involve the fields of posts and telecommunications.

ETHIOPIA

SUDANESE DELEGATION ARRIVES FOR TRIPARTITE TALKS

LD272132 Addis Ababa in English to Neighboring Countries 1530 GMT 27 Apr 81 EA

[Text] A high-level Sudanese Government delegation led by Mr Muhammad Mirghani Mubarak, minister of state for foreign affairs, arrived in Addis Ababa today to take part in the tripartite ministerial meeting between socialist Ethiopia, the Sudan and Kenya, due to begin tomorrow.

Mr Mubarak's delegation was welcomed on arrival by Comrade Dr Feleke Gedle-Giorgis, minister of foreign affairs and Commission for Organizing the Party of the Workers of Ethiopia Central Committee member, and the staff of the Sudanese Embassy.

Mubarak's Press Remarks

LD272134 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 27 Apr 81 EA

[Excerpt] His Excellency Mr Muhammad Mirghani Mubarak, minister of state for foreign affairs of the Democratic Republic of the Sudan, today told journalists that surrounding countries could take part in the tripartite foreign ministers' meeting of Sudan, Ethiopia and Kenya, which, he said, was being held by the three countries in accordance with the agreement reached between Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council and the Commission for Organizing the Party of the Workers of Ethiopia, and commander in chief of the revolutionary army; His Excellency Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, president of the Democratic Republic of the Sudan; and His Excellency Daniel Arap Moi, president of the Republic of Kenya.

He said that the meeting would be an opportunity for the three sisterly neighboring countries to exert common efforts for their common development and prosperity, adding that conditions favored this. He expressed the strong hope that the meeting would be fruitful, since it was being held in connection with the resolutions passed by the OAU economic summit held in Lagos.

ANSA REPORTS ON COLOMBO'S ADDIS ABABA VISIT

AU251955 Rome ANSA in English 1947 GMT 25 Apr 81

[Text] Addis Ababa, 25 Apr (ANSA)--Italian Foreign Minister Emilio Colombo's four-day visit to Ethiopia this week paved the way for closer economic, financial, cultural and technical relations between Rome and Addis Ababa.

On another level, it laid the groundwork for a political communications line between the Italian Government and the Ethiopian regime, breaking down the isolation which has stood between the [word indistinct] state and the West since the late Emperor Haile Selassie was ousted from power in 1974.

Ethiopian leader Haile Mariam Mengistu went so far as to describe Colombo's visit, the first to this country by a Western diplomatic chief since he came to power, as an "historic" event.

One byproduct of the visit is expected to make life easier for Italian families residing in Ethiopia, who have had difficulty obtaining exit visas and have not yet been compensated for their goods confiscated by the Mengistu regime.

Colombo reported that he received assurances from the Ethiopian chief-of-state that the latter will personally intervene on behalf of the most urgent cases and that steps will be taken to lay down general standards and regulations so that the dispute may finally be settled.

Before leaving the country today, Colombo and Deputy Premier Amanuel Amde-Mikael signed a memorandum listing [words indistinct] the two sides reached during the visit.

Basically, the document disclosed Italian plans to more or less triple its aid to Ethiopia, particularly in the areas of exploring alternative energy sources, health and education.

In terms of figures, in 1981 alone Italy will raise its expenditures for Ethiopian development from 15 to 20 million dollars and the figure may rise to 25 million if the money is promptly spent.

The aid will be extended in the form of a long-term 12-year credit at a favorable four percent interest rate.

Non-repayable aid donations will be raised from 3 to 7 million dollars this year and a 4.2 million dollar Ethiopian debt to Italy will be cancelled.

The economic agreement probably facilitated Colombo's political talks with Mengistu, who informed his guest that Ethiopia wanted to cooperate with the European Ten, on an equal footing, to help promote peace in Africa.

The Addis Ababa leader indicated his readiness to seek a peaceful settlement of his country's crisis with Somalia as long as it was understood that Ethiopia's territorial integrity was not negotiable.

OFFICIALS, KOMSOMOL DELEGATION MEET, SIGN ACCORD

LD231506 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 22 Apr 81 EA

[Excerpts] Comrade Legese Asfaw, member of the Provisional Military Administrative Council [PMAC] Standing Committee and the Commission for Organizing the Party of the Workers of Ethiopia [COPWE] Executive Committee, held talks in his office this afternoon with the Komsomol [all-Union Leninist Communist Youth League] delegation currently on a working visit to socialist Ethiopia.

Comrade Legese said at the meeting that relations between the peoples of Ethiopia and the USSR had been particularly strengthened since the outbreak of the revolution. He added that the delegation's working visit would contribute toward strengthening these already strong relations which had been bound with blood. He went on to say that the military, economic, social and political struggles of the Ethiopian broad masses were part and parcel of the international socialist movement, and added that the broad masses, government and party of the USSR understood in depth the achievements of the struggle.

Comrade Legese said that the broad masses were engaged in activities in various fields to consolidate the victories scored through the leadership of the PMAC and their unreserved participation in the bitter struggle. He also said that as regards politics, efforts were being made to establish a single workers' party through COPWE, which had been established with Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam as its pivot.

Comrade (Yuriy Vergesauvich), secretary of Komsomol and leader of the delegation, said in reply that during their working visit they had been better able to understand the process of the Ethiopian revolution and the participation of the broad masses and particularly the participation of the youths in the struggle. He added that they had also seen the revolutionary government's care given to heroes' children at the children center.

He said they would strive to strengthen the relations between Komsomol and the Revolutionary Ethiopian Youth Association.

Agreement Signed

LD231504 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 22 Apr 81 EA

[Text] The USSR's Leninist Youth League, the Komsomol, and the Revolutionary Ethiopian Youth Association [REYA] today signed a joint protocol agreement under which they will strengthen their solidarity, and will jointly participate in the struggle of African and international students and youths.

At the signing ceremony at the REYA assembly hall Comrade (Yuriy Vergesauvich), Komsomol secretary, who is currently on a visit to Ethiopia, and Comrade Berhanu Wolde Senbet signed the agreement on behalf of their respective organizations.

It was reported that the 2-year agreement would enable the youth organizations of the two countries to adopt a common position on the anti-imperialist, antifascist and antiapartheid struggle being waged in the world, as well as to strengthen their contributions to the struggle.

EIGHT-MEMBER DELEGATION DEPARTS FOR HAVANA MEETING

LD232036 Addis Ababa in English to Neighboring Countries 1530 GMT 23 Apr 81 EA

[Text] An eight-man Ethiopian delegation led by Comrade Abebe Kebede, minister of domestic trade and Commission for Organizing the Party of the Workers of Ethiopia Central Committee member, left for Havana, Cuba, today to take part in the second meeting of economists of the developing countries. The meeting will discuss the economic problems confronting developing countries and exchange views on enhancing relations and cooperation among them to strengthen their participation in the struggle for the establishment of a new international economic order.

KENYA

MOI ON BANNING OF 'CHARACTER ASSASSINATION'

LD241300 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 24 Apr 81 EA

[Excerpt] His Excellency President Daniel Arap Moi has said that in future no candidate aspiring for parliamentary or civic seat would be allowed to use defamatory or character assassination remarks against his opponents at campaign meetings. President Moi explained that it was against African culture and tradition for people to insult others, adding that the youths should respect elderly people and vice versa. His Excellency declared that any candidate who engages in witch-hunting during election campaigns will automatically be barred from contesting the elections by the ruling party, KANU.

SOMALIA

MOGADISHU BLAMES USSR FOR AFRICAN REFUGEE PROBLEM

LD281008 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1700 GMT 27 Apr 81 EA

[Text] In its latest propaganda campaigns, Radio Moscow has been trying to obfuscate the USSR's crimes and atrocities against refugees. Our commentary examines this issue and is read to you by Challe Abdi [words indistinct]:

Suitable ways of helping Africa's 5 million refugees was the main topic of the Geneva conference held at the beginning of this month. The conference, which was organized jointly by the OAU and the UN, was attended by 99 countries and more than 120 [word indistinct] organizations. The Moscow government and its surrogates did not attend the conference held to save the lives of Africa's 5 million refugees. Moscow tried to hide its antipathy by continually commenting on refugees in Somalia for the past 2 weeks.

What needs to be asked is: Who is initially responsible for turning people into refugees in Africa? Commenting on this issue, a Nairobi newspaper, The STANDARD, clearly disputed Moscow's claims regarding the causes of Africa's refugee problem. The daily pointed out that Africa's refugees exist due to the havoc perpetrated in Africa by Moscow. If any country was to be held responsible for the creation of the world's refugee problem, it would definitely be the USSR, said the paper. The paper is well aware that on the African plain and particularly in the Horn of Africa, which shelters the largest number of refugees, Soviet interference has been the direct cause. The refugees in Somalia, whom Moscow has chosen to comment on, were forced out of their country by the $2 billion [as heard] worth of weapons, the 14,000 Cuban and Soviet troops in this region and Soviet strategies in general here.

The world knows perfectly well that Libya's invasion of Chad and its interference in north, central and west African affairs is the work of the Soviets. The USSR is also behind the refugee problem in Afghanistan and Cambodia--another well-known fact.

The reason why no solution has been found so far to these problems lies in Moscow's obstinacy in continuing to interfere in the affairs of these countries. Moscow is also trying to deprive these displaced people of their very existence in that the Kremlin and those at its beck and call have not lifted a finger in joining the world in providing humanitarian support for these people, as demonstrated by their nonattendance at the Geneva refugee conference. Nor did Moscow attend the earlier conference on Cambodian refugees or help the latter. This is clearly indicative of Moscow's disregard for refugees in general. [passage indistinct]

Somalia's tireless efforts to help refugees has been noted by senior UN officials. The UN high commissioner for refugees in a recent interview for a U.S. magazine on African affairs stated that the Somali Government had extended every conceivable support to the refugees.

What can be said, then, is that Radio Moscow's lies against Somalia are aimed at covering up Moscow's crimes against refugees out of its envy of Somalia's humanitarian support and help for the refugees, who have fled from the atrocities of the Addis Ababa regime, which Moscow [words indistinct] expansionist policy.

TANZANIA

NYERERE MEETS WITH UGANDAN VICE PRESIDENT

LD241940 Dar es Salaam in English to Central and Southern Africa 1800 GMT 24 Apr 81 EA

[Text] President Nyerere today held talks with Uganda's vice president and minister for defense, Ndugu Paulo Muwanga, on the latest developments in Uganda. The talks, held at Mwalimu's Msasani residence, were also attended by Defense Minister Lt Gen Abdallah Twalipo and minister without portfolio Ndugu Rashid Kawawa.

Ndugu Muwanga, who arrived this afternoon, was accompanied by Uganda's chief of defense, Maj Gen Tito Okello.

FIRST TROOP CONTINGENT LEAVING UGANDA 1 MAY

LD271524 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1300 GMT 27 Apr 81 EA

[Text] Dodoma--The first group of Tanzanian fighters who remained in Uganda after the struggle to uproot fascist Idi Amin is expected to arrive in Mwanza on 1 May.

The return of the fighters follows the president's announcement early in February that all Tanzanian troops who had remained in Uganda to help in defense and security would be withdrawn from Uganda by June this year.

The group of fighters is scheduled to be welcomed home by the country's armed forces commander, Lt Gen David Msuguri, who is now in Dodoma on a 3-day visit. The armed forces commander has already visited defense installations in the town and a national service camp at (Makatapora). General Msuguri is expected to have talks with defense force officers and national servicemen before proceeding to Mwanza.

UGANDA

OBOTE CONGRATULATES NYERERE ON UNION DAY

LD262036 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 26 Apr 81 EA

[Text] President Milton Obote has reaffirmed his government's commitment to unity, without which, he said, no true peace, stability and prosperity are conceivable in Uganda and East Africa.

In a message of congratulations to President Nyerere of Tanzania on the 17th anniversary of the founding of the United Republic of Tanzania, the Uganda leader also reaffirmed his government's total commitment to strengthening further the already excellent relations which happily exist between the two countries.

The following is the full text of the message: His Excellency Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, president of the United Republic of Tanzania, Dar es Salaam: Your excellency and dear brother: On this auspicious and historic occasion of the 17th anniversary of the founding of the United Republic of Tanzania, it gives me great pleasure on behalf of the government and people of Uganda, and on my own behalf, to convey to your excellency and through you to the government and people of the United Republic of Tanzania our warmest congratulations and best wishes.

Your Excellency, we in Uganda have noted with admiration the remarkable achievements registered by your country since the union in 1964. Tanzania has played and continues to play a leading and effective role in African and world affairs. Her unflinching commitment to the total liberation of Africa from the forces of colonialism, imperialism, fascism and apartheid, is a source of great inspiration not only to us in Uganda but to the oppressed and suffering people throughout the world. This grand achievement, Your Excellency, is to us in Uganda a solid manifestation of the fact that unity is an invincible factor in national building.

I wish to assure you that unity, without which no true peace, stability and prosperity are conceivable, both in Uganda and in our region, will continue to be the primary concern of my government and the entire people of Uganda.

Tanzania's enormous sacrifice which led toward the elimination of fascist and dictatorial rule in Uganda, will ever remain a [word indistinct] mark of [word indistinct] unity and social progress for which the entire people of Uganda are extremely grateful. I wish to reaffirm, Your Excellency, our total commitment to strengthening much further the already excellent relations that so happily exist between our two sister states, which relations have been sealed in blood.

Please accept, Your Excellency and Dear Brother, the assurances of my highest consideration and esteem.

[Signed] Apollo Milton Obote, president of the Republic of Uganda

VICE PRESIDENT RETURNS FROM TANZANIA VISIT

LD260844 Kampala Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 26 Apr 81 EA

[Text] The vice president and minister of defense, Mr Paulo Muwanga, has returned home after a 2-day official visit to Tanzania. At a press conference held at Dar es Salaam Airport after the visit, Mr Muwanga reiterated the government appeal to all Ugandans living abroad to return home and help in rebuilding the country.

Speaking about the Asians who were expelled from Uganda by Idi Amin, he said that all Asians who use Ugandan citizenship were free to return to the country.

On Uganda's relationship with her neighbors, Mr Muwanga said that the UPC [Uganda People's Congress] government has achieved a lot in this regard in the short period it has been in power. He cautioned all those engaged in acts of sabotage intended to frustrate the government's efforts to rebuild the country, because they can never hope to use neighboring countries as their bases from which they can attack Uganda.

Mr Muwanga held discussions with President Nyerere and other high-ranking Tanzanian Government officials, and he was accompanied by the chief of the Uganda Defense Forces, Maj Gen Tito Okello. At Entebbe Airport he was received by the minister of state for defense, Mr Peter Otai, and the ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary in the office of the president, (Shaykh 'Ali Senyonga).

MINISTER OTIM ESCAPES ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT

LD272028 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 27 Apr 81 EA

[Statement issued by Dr Luwuliza-Kirunda, minister of internal affairs, on 27 April--read by announcer]

[Text] Today between 1300 and 1330 some bandits and assassins waylaid the minister of animal industry and fisheries, Dr Otim, at the gate of the compound of his ministry. As the minister was leaving for lunch, there was an assassination attempt. The minister and other people in the car escaped with minor injuries. Three people are helping the police.

Later in the afternoon, a lorry traveling from Lira was shot at around (Kawanda), near Kampala area. Three of the passengers were wounded, two sustained serious injuries. The police are investigating the incident.

Once again killer bandits and murderers are demonstrating their backruptcy with cowardly acts of murder and assassination.

I would like to assure all Ugandans that the government will do everything within its power to bring these bandits and murderers to book. The government is determined to root out these elements in our society and establish an order that we all once enjoyed in the decade of the sixties and hoped for after the last national general elections. The government will work tirelessly to bring this about in the shortest time.

GHANA

IVORIAN EMBASSY STAFF RETURNS TO ACCRA POSTS

AB231828 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 23 Apr 81

[Text] The Ivorian Embassy staff who left Ghana following public reaction over the suffocation to death of 46 Ghanaians in a police cell in Abidjan have returned to Accra to resume work. The arrival of the diplomats was the result of the summit in Lome, Togo, arranged between President Limann and President Houphouet-Boigny of the Ivory Coast by the Togolese leader, General Eyadema.

A communique at the end of the meeting recalled the long-standing relations between Ghana and the Ivory Coast and pledged the further strengthening of them. In this spirit, President Houphouet-Boigny directed that the Ivorian ambassador to Ghana, Mr Denis Coffi-Bile, and the entire diplomatic staff of the Ivory Coast Embassy, then at home, should return to their posts as soon as possible.

INTERTRIBAL FIGHTING RESULTS IN POLICE ACTION

AB260942 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 26 Apr 81

[Text] Police reinforcements have been rushed to Bimbila, in the northern region, following reports of fighting there between the Nanumbas and the Konkombas [tribes]. The cause of the fighting is not yet known, nor the number of casualties. The regional minister, Alhaji Haruna, has promised to issue a statement on the fighting [words indistinct].

Seven Deaths

AB281115 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 28 Apr 81

[Text] It is now known that seven people were killed in last week's disturbances at Bimbila in the northern region, when a group of Konkombas clashed with Nanumbas. Four people were injured. A Konkomba settlement in (Santawa), about 4 km from Bimbila, was completely burned down. A house of a Konkomba leader at Bimbila was also destroyed.

The trouble started when a Konkomba allegedly stabbed the son of the Bimbila-na [chief of Bimbila] during an argument. He was chased in his house, where he shot and killed the secretary of the Bimbila-na. In the ensuing confrontation, two Nanumbas and four Konkombas were killed. This was made known by the northern regional minister, Alhaji Haruna, when confirming a GHANA NEWS AGENCY report filed from Bimbila.

He said the disturbances are not a confrontation between the Nunumbas and Konkombas. Even now, the Konkomba chief has mobilized his people to help the Bimbila-na to resolve the disorder. The Bimbila-na has also agreed to restrain his people. The son of the Bimbila-na who was stabbed has been admitted at the Tamale Hospital and the situation at Bimbila is getting back to normal.

LIBERIA

BROADCASTING AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH USSR 23 APR

AB240916 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 0625 GMT 24 Apr 81

[Excerpt] An agreement on the exchange and cooperation in the field of television and radio broadcasting was yesterday signed between the USSR State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting and the Liberia Broadcasting System [ELBS] in Monrovia. The USSR ambassador accredited here, Mr Anatoliy Ulanov, signed for his government, while ELBS Director General Dr Peter Naigal signed for his corporation.

NIGER

FOREIGN MINISTER DIALLO'S UN SPEECH ON NAMIBIA

AB231950 Niamey Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Niger Foreign Minister Daouda Diallo's Speech at the UN Security Council meeting on Namibia on 22 April--recorded]

[Text] Mr Chairman, permit me first of all to congratulate you on your appointment as chairman of the Security Council for the month of April. The remarkable way in which you presided over the deliberations of this prestigious organ during the last few weeks is a clear demonstration of your qualities characterized by your outstanding talent as a diplomat, your good sense of proportion and (?thoughtfulness) and a sound understanding of international relations. I am sure that under your chairmanship, the current deliberations of the council will be carried out with interest and rigor corresponding to the seriousness of the points on our agenda.

I also want to express my sincere congratulations to your predecessor, His Excellency Dr (Voller Hoerst) of the GDR, who dedicated himself during the month of March to ensure that the council played its role and remained active.

Mr Chairman, we have met once again to debate the Namibian issue. The issue is so familiar that we are already aware of all its designs and implications. But what one is more aware of today is the pure and tough determination of racist South Africa to maintain its illegal domination over the territory of Namibia. The Geneva conference on Namibia [words indistinct] throw off the mask to show clearly that now it would be illusory to attempt to use dialogue to persuade that country which [words indistinct] against the international community (?through) its extremist stubborness, its unambiguous policy of provocation and challenge and lastly with an (?unthinkable) feeling of impunity in the face of the warnings and decisions by the OAU, the Nonaligned Movement and even by the United Nations. It is altogether normal, Mr Chairman, for so many ministers of foreign affairs to be sent here in large numbers by the OAU and by the Nonaligned Movement in order to condemn South Africa in your presence and proclaim that any delay in solving the present situation in Namibia is out of the question.

As a matter of fact, we have entered a new phase of international relations, in which any further delay in the liberation of Namibia, any inertia by the international community with regard to this sticky problem, and any complacency toward the champions of apartheid may pose the greatest threats to the stability of Africa and world peace.

Let us examine the context briefly. We know South Africa's plans for Namibia. It wants Namibia under its (?control), enjoying at best a [word indistinct] independence and subject to tallage and forced labor at pleasure. Namibia would be (?under) South Africa and serve as a bridgehead for the apartheid regime to cause disturbances and disorder in neighboring countries. Its leaders are still referring to the so-called 1978 elections, which conspicuously violated Security Council Resolutions 385 of 1976 and 435 of 1978. South Africa is still inventing and implementing at pleasure administrative and political (?regulations) in the territory of Namibia. One also notes the intensification of provocative maneuvers [words indistinct] which South Africa has been carrying out since the failure of the Geneva conference in order to hamper the UN efforts and elude Resolution 435 as much as possible.

But there is more to the issue. Pretoria has vital alliances and strong friendships which it has been cultivating with success since it knows that they are solid and that they have a considerable share in the complex Namibian issue. It is obvious that today the racist regime is using its international relations to bring about a confrontation between [words indistinct] and the rest of the world, where the African states have a prominent position.

Certain people say that Pretoria is [words indistinct]. This is first of all an attempt by them to discredit as much as possible the system of the United Nations, especially by dramatizing the scandalous lack of impartiality in our organization. Next it is an attempt to stand up in a theatrical manner to blackmail and make indirect appeals to their own allies and friends or to recall the precariousness of their economic situation, thus compelling their allies to remain inactive or [words indistinct]. Finally, and at the same time, it is an attempt to continue and increase the exploitation of Namibia's riches, to create on Namibian territory new conditions for a new form of servitude and to increase sabotage, provocation and armed aggression against the frontline states which have the courage to loudly point out all of South Africa's tricks and oppose apartheid with their limited means.

And behind all these maneuvers is a hidden desire to crush, mishandle and isolate SWAPO, that authentically Namibian organization, the sole representative of the Namibian people, which is however fighting with coolness and a sense of responsibility. It must also be recognized that it is because of this very SWAPO that the worst has not happened in Namibia in spite of the numerous martyrs that the South African colonizers have been making there continually, and because of the fact that the militants--the large majority of the Namibian people--are prepared, on their part, to intensify the struggle until the end. [passage indistinct].

The [word indistinct] of SWAPO will soon change its position to respond to war with war, to respond to resolutions with war, to crimes with war, to [word indistinct] with war and to proposals of dialogue with war.

It is obvious that if there is a catastrophe, the OAU, Africa and the Nonaligned Movement and the large majority of progressive countries will not remain indifferent. They will not hesitate as a matter of solidarity and duty to lend all their arms and their strength and means to champion the cause of Namibia, in its struggle for independence.

We have already decided with respect to the OAU and the Nonaligned Movement--there are several resolutions to prove this--to increase SWAPO's means to enable it to meet any challenge and to counter any [word indistinct] of the [word indistinct] aggressor. But perhaps it is too early to place this tragic development in the domain of the inevitable. Perhaps, with a new analysis of this situation, which does not have other solutions, the most [word indistinct] partners of South Africa will join the rest of the world in convincing that country that its own survival and world peace are at stake and that therefore it must strive actively, honestly and positively toward the future liberation of Namibia.

Incontestably, the earlier South Africa changes its stand the better. This is why we are turning especially to the five Western countries of the contact group. We stres that their role is henceforth a distressing one because their freedom of action is, from now on, narrow. They can no longer afford to sit on the fence. They will at least be expected to plead, in the name of stability, for the urgent, democratic and total liberation of Nami' 'a, in accordance with pertinent UN resolutions, particularly Security Council Resolution (?435).

In these circumstances, we are convinced that South Africa, which has already gone beyond the boundaries of the tolerable, will really begin to act and see the value of future negotiations only when global and obligatory sanctions are imposed on it, in accordance with the pertinent clauses of Chapter 7 of our organization's charter. Furthermore, such sanctions must be imposed regardless of the unconvicing idea that such sanctions could have an adverse effect on Namibia itself and the fragil economies of the frontline states. It would provide an extra opportunity for the world community to show its solidarity with these countries, so that their suffering may be light and their struggle [word indistinct].

We can never forget the magnificent example of heroic Zimbabwe, which was created recently out of the ruins of rebellious Rhodesia.

For economic sanctions to be more effective, there is a need for an embargo on arms, which was decided on in Resolution 418 of 1977. It will make South Africa feel the brunt of isolation, of unbelievable indebtedness and international reproach.

These, Mr Chairman, are the thoughts that the Namibian situation inspires in me and which I have presented to you (?in the framework) of these important debates. But I cannot end without expressing my appreciation and [word indistinct] for the remarkable efforts of the UN secretary general, His Excellency Mr Kurt Waldheim, who in spite of the numerous obstacles and the most unjust and [word indistinct] accusations, imperturbably continues his efforts to make South Africa see reason and thus bring about the peaceful liberation of Namibia. I would like to assure him of Niger's strong encouragement of such a move toward peace and harmony between nations. I would like him to convey my sincere congratulations and encouragement to his secretarial team, especially Mr (Juliano Umar). I think I also have the right to praise the efforts of the UN Council of Namibia, which loves its duty and which deserves the [words indistinct] of the world community. Thank you very much.

NIGERIA

KANO STATE SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIA

AB240919 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 24 Apr 81

[Text] The Kano State government has initialed an agreement with Czechoslovakia for the supply and delivery of machines and equipment for an automobile workshop estimated at 1.2 million naira. The accord was signed on behalf of the state government by the commissioner for works and housing, Dr Hamed Hailie Addulahi.

CHINA TO BE INVOLVED IN SOKOTO DEVELOPMENT

AB271337 Lagos International Service in English 1230 GMT 27 Apr 81

[Text] Plans are at advanced stages to involve China in a massive development of Sokoto State. Governor Shehu Mohamed Kangiwa, who is on a visit to that country, has already held talks in Shanghai Province with Chinese officials on ways of bringing about rapid development in his state. The governor inspected a community workers' housing scheme and industrial areas. Reports say that the commissioner for agriculture, Alhaji Haruna Mafara, and the governor's entourage, has also held talks in Beijing with agricultural officials.

COMMENTARY EXAMINES RELATIONS WITH POLAND

AB271909 Lagos International Service in English 1230 GMT 27 Apr 81

[Station commentary]

[Text] The agreement establishing the Nigeria-Polish joint commission specifies cooperation in economic, technical, scientific and cultural fields. Prior to the inauguration of the body, Nigeria and Poland had in 1961 finalized a trade agreement. Poland was therefore the first country in Eastern Europe to enter into trade ties with Nigeria. Since the established economic link, the volume of trade between both nations had been substantial. For example, in 1974 trade between Nigeria and Poland (?reached) 25 million naira. However, the figure dropped to about 15 million naira in the following year. Currently, trade between the two nations stands at two times the volume recorded in 1974. This is encouraging.

Although this trend in the trade relationship between Nigeria and Poland can be said to be promising, there is the need for Poland to increase her importation of Nigerian goods.

This will ensure a healthier situation, whereby Poland's imports from Nigeria will be increased and diversified in order to improve the balance in trade between both nations, which is now at the disadvantage of Nigeria. This notwithstanding, relationship between Poland and Nigeria has been cordial. The heads of state of those two countries had exchanged visits. Again, last year, the chief of army staff, Lt Gen Theophilus (Engima) visited Poland at the invitation of his counterpart, and in March this year, the chief of general staff of the Polish army and the deputy minister of defense of the Polish People's Republic, General Siwicki, visited Nigeria. These exchanges of visits at political and military levels by Nigeria and Poland should be sustained. They help to cement the ties between both countries and the achievement of their goals of cooperation [words indistinct].

The relationship between Nigeria and Poland is not centered on trade alone. Polish organizations have in partnership with their Nigerian counterparts established a number of companies in the country. A mechanized coal-mining project in Enugu, Anambra State, is also being undertaken jointly with Polish enterprises. There is room for expansion and cooperation and investment in the industrial sphere of technology to help boost the Nigerian industries and hence her industrial growth, which is among [words indistinct] in the world can be brought into full play.

In the field of education, a good beginning in cooperation has been made. Nigerian students are now studying in Poland. One hopes that the number of such students will increase progressively. On the other hand, Polish students and scholars should be encouraged to come to our country for studies.

Another area for fruitful cooperation is agriculture. This can take the form of increased trade exchanges in agricultural products and joint investments in agro-based industries like the canning of food preparation of fruit juices, and the processing of hide and skin.

Besides, Nigeria, in an effort to feed its population, has launched the green revolution program. The state governments are supporting this with the agricultural credit loan scheme to alleviate the financial problems of farmers. But much more needs to be done and this is where the expertise of Poland as one of the world's leading agricultural nations can now come into play. Nigeria and Poland can cooperate in the areas of livestock, currently accountable for 8 percent of the crop and livestock consumption of European countries.

NIGER OFFICIALS VISIT TO DISCUSS ECONOMIC MATTERS

AB240920 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 24 Apr 81

[Text] Officials of Niger republic are in Lagos to discuss economic matters with the federal government. The discussion will cover trade agreements and the construction of the trans-Africa road link. Receiving the Niger minister of commerce, Mr Hamid Algabit, in Lagos yesterday, the vice president, Dr Alex Ekueme, expressed the hope that the discussions will be cordial and fruitful.

SENEGAL

DIOUF HOPES FOR STRONGER TIES WITH GUINEA

AB261114 Paris AFP in French 1215 GMT 25 Apr 81

[Text] Dakar, 25 Apr (AFP)--The special importance that Senegal attaches to the harmonious development of relations with Guinea was stressed by the Senegalese president, Mr Abdou Diouf, when he received the letter of credence of Mr Amirou Diallo, new ambassador of Guinea to Senegal.

Senegal will make every effort to strengthen the fraternal friendship which exists between the two countries, the Senegalese head of state added. He hoped for an improved Senegal-Guinea cooperation, which will always be a true reflection of the excellent relations that exist between the two countries in the political field as well as the personal relations between the Guinea and Senegalese heads of state.

Mr Abdou Diouf, who noted that President Sekou Toure's visit to Senegal in 1979, gave a new impetus to this cooperation, also hoped that the two countries will combine their actions in subregional, regional and international projects.

SIERRA LEONE

FOREIGN MINISTER ADDRESSES UN ON NAMIBIA

AB242114 Freetown Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 24 Apr 81

[Text] Sierra Leone has told the UN Security Council that requests of African states for mandatory and comprehensive sanctions against South Africa should be regarded as a reaffirmation of [word indistinct] that the United Nations would not abandon the people of Namibia.

Addressing the Security Council, currently debating the Namibian question, Sierra Leone's foreign minister, Dr Abdullai Conteh, said that African states were asking the Security Council in the name of peace, international security, world public opinion and the Namibian people, to suppress and prevent further breaches of international peace and active aggression by South Africa.

The African request for sanctions against South Africa, Dr Conteh went on, was based on the fact that South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia was a continued threat to international peace and security and portends dire consequences for global peace. He explained that Namibia was a UN responsibility, adding that the Security Council has the responsibility under the charter to point out this manifest and clear violation of the charter by South Africa.

The foreign minister pointed out that all peaceful means of persuading South Africa to evacuate the territory had been met with outward resistance and intransigence. He referred to South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia and her use of Namibia as a springboard for active aggression against neighboring states as a violation of the UN Charter.

It befits this council to rise up to its responsiblities, he declared. Dr Conteh, who is among 12 African foreign ministers participating in the Namibia debate, said African states were aware of claims that comprehensive mandatory sanctions against South Africa would cause suffering to innocent people. This is inevitable, he said, adding that the sooner sanctions are applied, the better in order not to prolong the agonies of Namibia as the principle involved is such that no one price is too high to pay.

BRIEFS

MALIAN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION--The Malian minister of agriculture, Mr N'fagnanama Kone, opened the 21st annual session of the National Commission for Agronomic Research in Bamako on Wednesday. During the opening of this session, he gave official results of agricultural production for the last season: 441,137 tons of millet-corn-sorghum compared to 1,007,000 tons in 1979/80; 124,712 tons of paddy rice compared to 165,000 tons in 1979/80; 67,308 tons of shelled peanuts compared to 116,000 tons; 110,000 tons of cotton seeds compared to 151,000 tons; and 462 tons of tobacco compared to 550 tons. [Excerpt] [Paris AFP in French 1718 GMT 22 Apr 81 AB]

ANGOLA

CABINDA GUERRILLAS REPORT CLASH WITH ARMY, DEATHS

AB271209 Paris AFP in English 1143 GMT 27 Apr 81

[Text] Lisbon, Apr 27 (AFP)--Guerrillas fighting for independence in Angola's Cabinda enclave killed 11 Angolan army troops in the enclave at the end of March, according to a communique released here today.

The communique, signed by the Front for the Liberation of the Cabinda Enclave, said that six Angolan troops were killed in a clash with front forces on March 26.

The bodies of five more Angolan troops were later found in another district at the start of April, the communique added.

The front, which also claimed responsibility for an ambush on an Angolan army vehicle travelling to the Cabinda capital, Tshiowa, on March 11, said that it had seized arms and ammunition including rocket-launchers and guns. The Cabinda enclave is sandwiched between the Congo and Zaire.

BRIEFS

DELEGATION RETURNS--An Angolan delegation led by Lt Col Andre Petrof, member of the party Central Committee, has returned home after attending the 15th meeting of the Palestine National Council, which was held from 11-17 April in Damascus. [Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 27 Apr 81 LD/EA]

MOZAMBIQUE

MACHEL ADDRESSES NEW LESOTHO, FRENCH ENVOYS

LD241658 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 24 Apr 81 EA

[Text] In Maputo this morning, the president of the Frelimo Party and president of the People's Republic of Mozambique, Foreign Minister [as heard] Samora Moises Machel, received the credentials of the new ambassadors appointed by the governments of France and the Kingdom of Lesotho, Bernard Boyer and General (David P.G. Malcoae) respectively.

Addressing the French ambassador to our government, President Samora Machel described southern Africa as being in flames because of colonialism in Namibia and apartheid in South Africa. He added that this situation was causing much concern to all peace-loving people. President Samora Machel said in his address that Mozambique was taking part in all international forums in its search for peace. He made this remark while referring to the most burning issues in Africa in particular and in the world in general. Having stressed that Mozambique had excellent cooperative relations with France that were mutually beneficial, our head of state said that the next cooperative effort would be geared to the fields of forestry, animal husbandry and fisheries.

In response, the ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of France hailed the Mozambique Government's efforts to achieve a negotiated settlement of the independence question of South African-occupied Namibia.

After receiving the credentials of the new ambassador of the Kingdom of Lesotho, President Samora Machel referred to the common experiences of Mozambique and Lesotho during the colonial occupation. He added that the colonialists had plundered all our wealth, leaving us only with brains, heroism and determination to overcome backwardness.

The president of the Frelimo Party and the People's Republic of Mozambique also stressed the need for the two countries to join hands to overcome backwardness more effectively. He hailed the resolve of the Lesotho people and government in the struggle to overcome colonial legacies.

The new ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Lesotho delivered special messages from King Moshoeshoe II and the prime minister, Leabua Jonathan, to President Samora Machel.

NAMIBIA

DTA TO DEMAND CUBAN, GDR WITHDRAWAL FROM ANGOLA

AB271422 Paris AFP in English 1407 GMT 27 Apr 81

[Text] Windhoek, April 27 (AFP)--The Pretoria-backed political alliance in Namibia will demand the withdrawal of Cuban and East German military personnel from neighboring Angola before a plan for this territory's independence from South Africa can take effect, an alliance official said here today.

Peter Kalangula, president of the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance (DTA), said Namibia would not be secure as long as the Cubans were next door.

Just last week, Angolan Foreign Minister Paulo Jorge said in an interview that once Namibia was independent and South African raids into Angolan had ceased, the Cuban troops would be asked to leave. The South Africans say their forces make the incursions against rear bases of the black nationalist guerrillas fighting against them in Namibia.

Speaking one day after South African Foreign Minister number-2 Brand Fourie said in Johannesburg that the U.N. plan for Namibian independence was not viable, Mr. Kalangula also said that the DTA would prefer an alternative to the U.N. plan, but it could still serve as the basis for a peaceful solution.

The U.N. plan calls for a cease-fire between South Africa and the guerrillas, to be followed by internationally monitored elections for an assembly that would draft an independence constitution.

The South Africans at first agreed to the plan, negotiated by five Western states and enshrined in Security Council Resolution 435 in 1978. But Pretoria then threw up a number of objections to it over the months and finally refused to implement it at a conference in Geneva this January.

Last week, at the Security Council's special session on Namibia, Mr. Fourie said that by refusing to hear DTA representatives, the United Nations had proved once and for all that it was partial toward the Namibian guerrillas and unfit to manage a settlement in the territory.

Today, however, Mr. Kalagula said the U.N. should continue to play some role in the process leading Namibia to independence. While Mr. Kalangula bears the title of president of the DTA, the real power in the alliance is Chairman Dirk Mudge, a white farmer who also chairs the South African-installed Council of Ministers in Windhoek.

SOUTH AFRICA

FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON 14 MAY TALKS IN U.S.

LD281040 Johannesburg International Service in English 0400 GMT 28 Apr 81

[Text] The South African minister of foreign affairs, Mr Roelof Botha, says American interests from a global point of view do not necessarily coincide with South Africa's interests. Mr Botha was reacting to the announcement that he and the American secretary of state, General Alexander Haig, would meet in Washington on the 14th of next month to discuss bilateral issues and matters affecting southern Africa.

Speaking in Johannesburg, Mr Botha said he hoped to provide American leaders with the background history of the southern African situation and to convince them of South Africa's sincerity.

JOHANNESBURG VIEWS SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE

LD272147 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 27 Apr 81

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Security Council debate has been useful in clarifying the South-West African dispute and in setting the parameters of a viable independence formula. The United Nations has disqualified itself from the central part it was to have played. The Security Council as well as the General Assembly has now demonstrated its bias by allowing the Soviet-backed SWAPO movement to participate in its proceedings while denying that opportunity to the territory's elected representatives. The United Nations is unfit to act as an impartial arbiter, and the South African foreign minister stated at the weekend that there must be a new look at the type of role, if any, the world body will in future have in the independence process.

Pretoria's general view is that a settlement formula must satisfy the following requirements: an atmosphere in South-West Africa free of intimidation and duress; equal treatment for all parties in an independence election; protection for minority communities and guarantees for the continuence of democracy and free enterprise after independence. There are indications of a widening area of agreement on these points with the West and with works on a new initiative. Western countries have adopted a straightforward and realistic approach during the debate. They have sharply criticized the threats and aggressive rhetoric which mark the attitude of the Third World-communist coalition, and in a short but cutting statement the American representative said sanctions do not solve problems, resolutions do not make peace and declarations do not secure independence.

On the sanctions issue, a correspondent of the United Nations has commented that a Western veto will rescue South Africa. That does not accurately reflect the true state of affairs. South Africa, experiencing the greatest economic expansion in its history and doing business with the outside world including Africa to the tune of more than 30 billion rand a year, is well positioned to withstand sanctions. According to the UN Economic Commission for Africa, the rest of the subcontinent is not. Sanctions, says the commission, would do incalculable harm. It is the black states in southern Africa that a veto will rescue from their own folly.

ZIMBABWE

DELEGATE TO ATTEND CUBAN MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS

LD241358 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 23 Apr 81 CA

[Excerpt] Zimbabwe will be represented at the forthcoming international workers day celebrations in Cuba. This was disclosed this morning by the Cuban ambassador to Zimbabwe, Comrade Acosta, in an interview with the ZBC [Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation]. He said the Zimbabwean delegation will soon leave for Havana and is to be led by secretary general of the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions [ZCTU], Comrade Albert Mugabe.

Comrade Acosta said during its stay in Cuba the Zimbabwean delegation will discuss a number of issues, including cooperation between the Cuban Workers Federation and the ZCTU. He said the two unions will finalize arrangements for Zimbabweans to study at the Cuban School of Trade cadres.